WIN FOOTIE BOOKS! ◦ MILNER ON NABY KEITA ◦ CLEM & BRUCIE TOGETHER ◦ CAOIMHIN KELLEHER

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Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine



"WHAT THE MANAGER HAS DONE SINCE HE CAME HERE IS AMAZING. NOW IT'S ABOUT US DOING WHAT HE WANTS US TO DO. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER AND IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE AT THE CLUB"

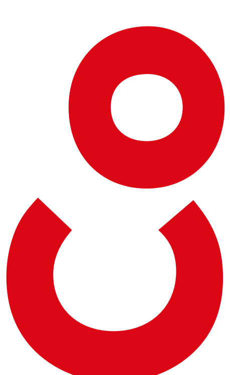
JORDAN HENDERSON

FAB FRONT FOUR!

- **BOBBY** POSTER SPECIAL
- 50 UP FOR **STURRIDGE**
- MORE AWARDS FOR **MO**
- **MANE'S** PERFECT 10



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DID THAT JUST HAPPEN?

The home fans are stunned, the Liverpool team is euphoric, the cameraman just gets on with the job. BBC *Match of the Day* commentator Steve Wilson described Daniel Sturridge's equaliser at Chelsea thus: "The gap between fingertip [of keeper Arrizabalaga] and crossbar is about as big as the ball, and the ball went right through it." Pundit Martin Keown added: "This fella makes a habit of this, 17 goals off the bench. The arrogance, the audacity, to try that – it's absolutely outrageous."

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EYE DRAMA AT ANFIELD

After being poked in the eye in a Wembley win at Spurs it looked like Bobby Firmino would be ruled out of the Reds' Champions League opener against PSG. But he came off the bench to net a blinding late winner, which was one in the eye for Neymar and co...


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LEADER OF THE PACK

He's pretty much seen it all in his seven years at the club so far, but captain Jordan Henderson is hoping that Liverpool's best is still yet to come


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Words: Chris McLoughlin

There were 27 days between the 2018 World Cup final and Liverpool's opening game of the new Premier League season against West Ham United at Anfield. It felt like forever.

Yes, there were plenty of pre-season fixtures to get Kopites all over the world in the mood for the eagerly-awaited 2018/19 campaign. But there's nothing quite like seeing the Redmen back playing competitive, top-level football after a summer break.

Jordan Henderson, however, found himself in an unusual position. The new season couldn't come soon enough either for the Liverpool skipper, he was desperate to lead the Reds out again. Yet at the same time he could really have done with it starting a few weeks later.

Hendo was arguably England's most influential player at the World Cup. Harry Kane won the Golden Boot, Jordan Pickford was a penalty shoot-out hero and Harry Maguire earned plenty of plaudits, but the stats don't lie in terms of influence.

Henderson played for 482 of England's 690 minutes on the pitch in Russia and during that time Gareth Southgate's side were never behind. In the 208 minutes he was off the pitch the Three Lions were behind for 136 of them. Call it a coincidence, but you'd be wrong.

Although England's campaign was to end in semi-final heartbreak against Dejan Lovren's Croatia, Henderson came out of the tournament feeling fresh and ready to go again. But any desire he had to return to training swiftly with Liverpool – who played their first pre-season game at Chester on the same day as England's quarter-final win against Sweden – was knocked on the head by Jürgen Klopp. The Reds boss told his captain to take three weeks off and Henderson admits he found that challenging.

"It's different because obviously you're back later than everybody else, certainly the people that hadn't been to the World Cup or maybe went out earlier in the competition," he says as we chat at Melwood. "So to come back later than everybody else was difficult because you're sort of playing catch-up straightaway.

"The Premier League started the week after I was back so I was straight back into it, which was nice. But at the same time I knew that it would take us a few weeks, if not a little bit longer, to get back up to speed, to the same sort of level as the other lads."

Liverpool spent almost half of those three weeks preparing for



the new campaign in America, playing in a trio of high-profile International Champions Cup games. So was Henderson able to switch off from football, knowing most of his team-mates were back on the pitch?

"Not totally," he admits. "It's difficult because obviously you want to spend some time with the family. It was a long season so I tried to spend as much time with the family as I could. But at the same time with the lads training I always had one eye – part of my mind – on seeing what they were doing in the pre-season games. I watched some of them so it was difficult [to switch off] in that sense."

Which brings us to the issue of fitness and the post-summer tournament chatter that surfaces every two years. How many times have you heard it said that players are more tired in the early months of a new season after playing in a World Cup? Loads. But is it actually true?

"It's a tough one to answer, really, because I think it's more a mental issue to switch off and have that break. Otherwise, if you don't, I think it can catch up with you maybe later on in the season.

"Physically I felt I was in a good place after the World Cup and I wanted to keep going, but I also knew I needed a little bit of a rest because I wouldn't really get one during the season with the amount of games there will be.

"It's hard to get the balance. It's difficult to know exactly what is the best thing to do, but you've got to listen to the staff and the manager – to basically take their advice on what is best for us as players.

"It has been a little bit frustrating that I haven't played as much as I would have liked at the start of the season. I wasn't as involved as much, but I still tried to use that period as best I could. I understood why I wasn't maybe playing as much as what I would have liked – basically to give my body and my mind a break.

COMING BACK LATER I KNEW THAT IT WOULD TAKE A FEW WEEKS TO GET BACK UP TO SPEED TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THE OTHER LADS

"Obviously that's what the gaffer felt I needed, so I tried to use that period as best as I could because maybe later on in the season I won't get it again."

One man who spent his summer away from Russia – possibly drinking *Yorkshire Tea* on Scarborough beach – was Henderson's fellow central midfielder James Milner. The Reds vice-skipper has started the season in tremendous form, looking more like a teenager than, at 32, Liverpool's oldest player as he charges around the pitch imposing his authority – best exemplified by a thumping 'welcome to Anfield' challenge on Neymar in the Champions League win over PSG.

Henderson is appreciative of Milner's contribution and believes that there is still plenty more to come. "Milly is really fit and I think he's been like that throughout his career. He's a good professional

and does everything properly. He eats right, does the gym-work, does injury-prevention stuff. But to be fair a lot of the lads are very professional now, especially here.

"All the lads follow what they should be doing properly. They eat properly, but obviously it helps when you've got all the staff that we have here looking after the players. Everything is done for us, so we've just got to go and do it on the pitch.

"It's a credit to Milly that he is still so fit and has done it for a number of years, but for me he's still young. People say 'Oh he's 32 now' but that's still young really. Maybe people think in football that 31, 32 is coming towards the end, but it depends on who it is and what type of player they are.

"For me, 32 is still a young age, especially for a player like Milly."

It's not that long ago since the Reds had a 36-year-old midfielder in Gary McAllister, who like Milner was signed on a free transfer, inspiring Gerard Houllier's team to a treble of trophies in 2000/01. So with numerous advances in sports-science since then, shouldn't players be capable of extending their careers for longer?

"Yeah, I would've thought so," replies Henderson. "If you do things properly, look after your body and you're good enough then you should be able to go on for as long as you like, really.

"Look at someone like Ronaldo. He's 33 and looks as though he's never going to stop. I know he's maybe the top level in terms of physical attributes, what he does, how he looks and how strong and powerful he is, but it just shows that if you work hard enough you can keep going."

Henderson is Liverpool's longest-serving player. He first arrived at LFC from Sunderland under Kenny Dalglish's management in 2011 and later this season will become the 59th man to pass the 300-game mark for the Reds.

Not only is he the club captain but one of the most experienced heads in a relatively young Liverpool dressing-room, and he realises that both himself and Milner have an additional responsibility within the squad.

"It is quite a young group and I think that experience is important. I still feel that, at 28, I'm at a young age, a good age, that I'm still



youthful. But I've got a lot of experience in terms of games and big games at different levels.

"I try to bring that to the dressing-room and to the lads on the pitch as much as possible as well. It's really important if you want to achieve things to have that experience and obviously there are other players here with good experience as well.

"Milly, for instance, has experienced a lot through his career and has won some good titles so he's a key member of this squad on and off the field."

Of course the experience and influence of Jürgen Klopp underpins everything. He's created a young team that don't seem fazed or overawed by any opponent at any venue in any competition, so I ask Henderson how much of that attitude comes from the Liverpool manager?

"The manager obviously plays a big part. What the manager has done since he came in is amazing really in terms of, well, everything that he's done for the club and the team.

"Now it's about us following his instructions and doing what he wants us to do. We believe as a team that if we do that we will be successful."

Celebrating Mo's goal during the 3-0 home win over Southampton



A MESSAGE FOR THE OX

If you're a regular reader of Jordan Henderson's matchday programme notes you'll know that he often writes about issues off the pitch.

From thanking travelling Kopites after they experienced various issues on an away Champions League trip, to raising awareness of and showing support for people going through tough times – such as the family of 18-year-old Prescot Cables player Jack Riding who passed away in August – he's a captain with a conscience.

So while things are going well for the Reds so far in season 2018/19 he is well aware of the battle for fitness that his team-mate Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is undergoing.

The Ox suffered a serious knee-ligament injury in the Champions League semi-final first leg against AS Roma in April that will rule him out for the majority of the 2018/19 campaign. The 24-year-old is currently undergoing a long rehabilitation process and Henderson took the opportunity to update our magazine readers on Oxlade-Chamberlain's progress and remind everyone what a boost it will be when he's back in a red shirt.

"It's very difficult for Ox. The great performances he was putting in before he got injured made it one of the best periods of his career so far. So to get injured for such a long time is hard to take.

"The type of lad he is, he's very positive, very good to be around, and he's remained like that. I'm sure he'll have his moments at home and maybe here at Melwood when the lads aren't here, but whenever I speak to him he's always positive and he always looks good. He's a great lad and I just hope he can keep getting stronger and get back to us as soon as he can, because he's a massive, massive player for us.

"I've played with Ox for a long time, from England Under-21s upwards, and I knew how good he was then. It was a massive bonus that we signed him and I know he will come back stronger. When he does and he gets back into his rhythm, he'll be straight back in.

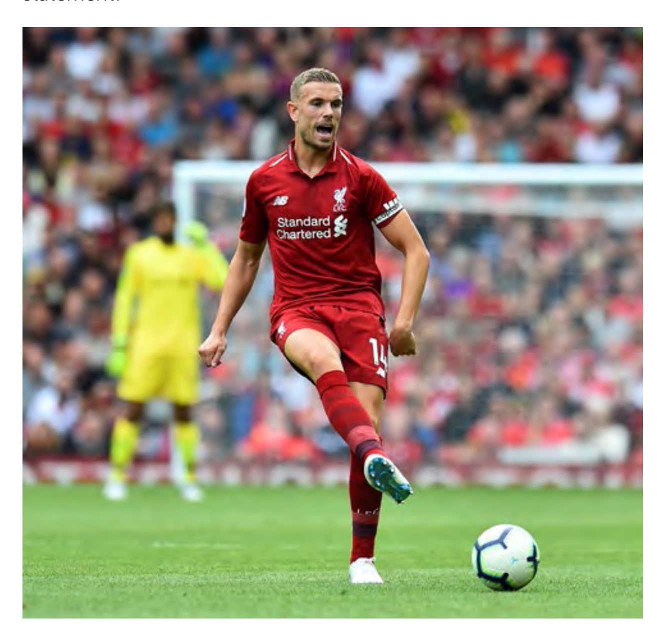
"So fingers crossed he keeps going the way he has been because I think he's progressing well with his rehab.

"Hopefully that will continue because Ox has got a big part to play whenever he is back."

AT 28 I'M AT A GOOD AGE TO TRY TO BRING MY EXPERIENCE OF BIG GAMES TO THE DRESSING-ROOM

One of the biggest instructions of all from Klopp is a footballing cliche: one game at a time. Indeed it's a mantra so instilled in the players that Henderson even used his matchday programme notes before the Brighton game to apologise to Kopites in case they got bored of hearing it said!

"Nothing could highlight the modern obsession with the 'immediate' more than the questions asked to some of the lads and the gaffer before and after the Palace game," he wrote. "Because Man City, Spurs and Chelsea had won before we played we were already being asked about the need to 'send statements' ourselves. Afterwards, when we had won, it was a case of 'have we sent a statement?'



"I get that's how it is these days, but it's mad to think that before you even kick off the second league game of a new season that such a topic is already on the table.

"As players and as a team we're cool with it and we know how to handle it. I should probably warn supporters now that you'll be hearing a lot of cliched answers when we're interviewed. After all, there are only so many different ways you can say 'we're only focused on the next game'."

Henderson smiles when I mention the 'one game at a time' focus and goes on to explain that such an attitude is not just important when dealing with playing in four different competitions, but also for members of the Liverpool squad who aren't necessarily playing every week.

"It is very important. Premier League is Premier League. Every game there is three points up for grabs and we definitely want to challenge for every competition we are in. I feel as though we have got a good enough squad to do that and you need a good squad of 20-plus players if you're going to challenge in every competition.

"The FA Cup is a big cup to win as well with all the history it has got, and obviously the Champions League is huge as well. But the Premier League is bread and butter.

"Like I say, we want to challenge in all of them and to do that we need to take one game at a time and for our full squad of 20-plus players to be onboard and to be ready. The manager, I am sure, will use the whole squad because he can, because of the talent that we have and the ability we have.

"Us, as a group, need to make sure that everyone is in it together through tough periods of games from now right until the end of the season, fingers crossed, if we keep doing well.

"Christmas, as we know, will be a busy period and the games come thick and fast so people need to keep doing what they've been doing, keep training hard if you're not playing, and when you get your chance to play in the first team you've got to take your opportunity.


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"Being in it together is the biggest thing and that's what we're trying to do."

It's clearly a good mentality to have, but what of the lads who have so far spent more time on the bench than the pitch or don't even make matchday squads? That must be tough to deal with?

"Yeah, but at one stage you might not be in the matchday squad and the next week you might be starting so that's how quickly it can change.

"With the games that are coming up and the players that we've got, I think everybody will be needed so it's important that the group stays together and that people are focused on what the job is rather than thinking about themselves if they're not playing.

"Every player has got a right to be disappointed when they're not playing, but there's a way to deal with it. You've got to respect the players around you and also the manager as well.

"To be fair I think the lads understand that. They've all been really good about it so far and I'm sure things will get better because with all the games we've got coming you're going to get injuries during the season. We need everyone if we're going to win trophies."

Steven Gerrard. Jamie Carragher. Pepe Reina. Luis Suarez. Philippe Coutinho. Henderson has played with some top-class players during his previous seven seasons at Anfield but there's widespread talk that Klopp has now assembled the strongest Liverpool squad in decades. Is such talk justified? Hendo thinks so.

"It's probably the strongest since I've been here, yeah. Like I say, you need 20, 22-plus players really – two teams to basically challenge for every trophy.

"When you're playing every three or four days on a consistent basis you need to freshen things up, whether that's with a couple of changes or a few more, depending on what the manager wants to do. You need everyone as fresh as can be, really, to share the load, so in that sense I feel it is certainly the strongest squad I've been part of.

"I look around at the quality of the people we've got coming on in games and people who are not even on the bench. It's strong and that can only be a plus for us hopefully. But every game is difficult in the Premier League and every team seems to be getting better every year.

"There are some top teams with amazing players and top managers throughout the league, clubs that are improving because they're investing well and buying well in the transfer window.

"Tactically things have changed as well, which has improved things, so I'd say the Premier League is getting stronger. That makes it difficult to win it but we've come on leaps-and-bounds over the last couple of years and we're in a position now where we can really challenge. It's down to us to go out there and do the business every weekend."

And if Liverpool can do the business every weekend? And if Liverpool do keep winning? And if Liverpool are able to continue progressing? Where could it all lead?

"We had a good campaign last year in terms of improving as a team, qualifying again for the Champions League – which was a priority – and getting to the Champions League final.

"The journey through that was special for us. Unfortunately we didn't go all the way but I think we can learn a lot from that experience and definitely use it this season.

"It's obviously an exciting time to be at the club so all I will say is we feel as though we are moving in the right direction and we're good enough now to be challenging for the top trophies."

Sounds like a plan. One game at a time...



SHARP SHOOTER

Getting the hang of this? It's a Bobby goal-celebration special. Firmino celebrated his second-half equaliser at soggy Swansea in 2016 – a game the Reds went on to win 2-1 – by playing pistols with his hands. 'Bout time this town had a new sheriff...

MO's snow stopper

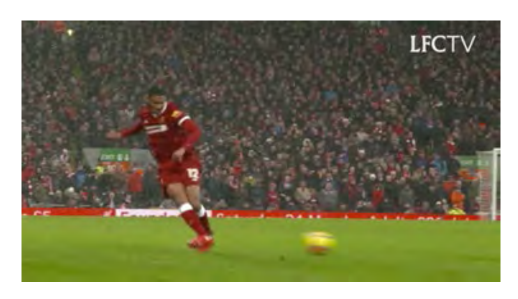
Salah's derby goal last December sees off serious competition to earn top FIFA honour



Around 2.57pm on Sunday 10 December 2017, half-time was approaching in a goalless Anfield derby when Reds attacker Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain moved a short pass out to Joe Gomez, then in the right-back berth, who played it first time into Mohamed Salah just outside the Everton box with his back to goal.

"Spinning away from a weak challenge by Cuco Martina," reported *The Guardian*, "the summer signing advanced into the box, cut inside Idrissa Gueye and lofted a superb finish around Ashley Williams into the far, top corner. Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford was left grasping at snow."

It was Mo's 19th goal of the season, the 23rd in which he'd been involved in all →



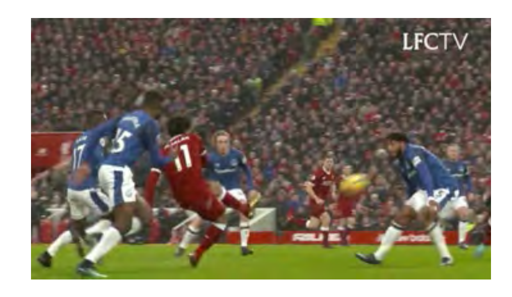




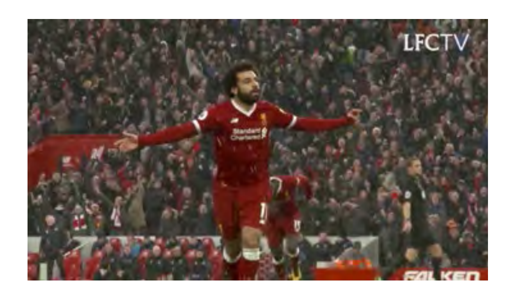

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competitions, as the Reds equalled their longest-ever unbeaten run against their neighbours, 15 games.

Nine months on it's won the 2018 FIFA Puskas Award with Salah receiving the honour in person at London's Royal Festival Hall, venue for this year's Best FIFA Football Awards – the new incarnation for the FIFA World Player Gala which began in 1991.

Mo's award was for the best goal scored during the period from 3 July 2017 to 15 July 2018, 'regardless of championship, gender or nationality'.

It was one of a shortlist of ten, among them spectacular Champions League bicycle-kicks by Cristiano Ronaldo and Gareth Bale (let's not go there) as well as Lionel Messi's superb strike for Argentina versus Nigeria at the World Cup finals.

The Egyptian King received 38 per cent of the public vote on FIFA's official website to scoop the award.

MILLY SEASON

In his own words, the Reds vice-captain talking fitness, football and forays into social-media

THE HARD YARDS

I feel really good. I think I only missed one game last year through injury and that was the very last league match of the season. People probably look at the age [32] and obviously I'm getting older but I still feel the same as I have for the past few years so that's a positive sign. I try and look after myself as well as I can.

Age is only a number – it was at the start of my career and it is now. People just keep making me aware of my age more often but I'm sure I've got a good few years left! I think my body can deal with the load and the positive side is that I feel that if I can get through a pre-season with Jürgen Klopp, I can do it anywhere.

The body's holding up, I feel very fit and I want to play every single game. Obviously that's not going to happen, I'm sure, as you need to rotate to be successful, especially with the amount of games that we have and the amount of quality that we have in the squad too.

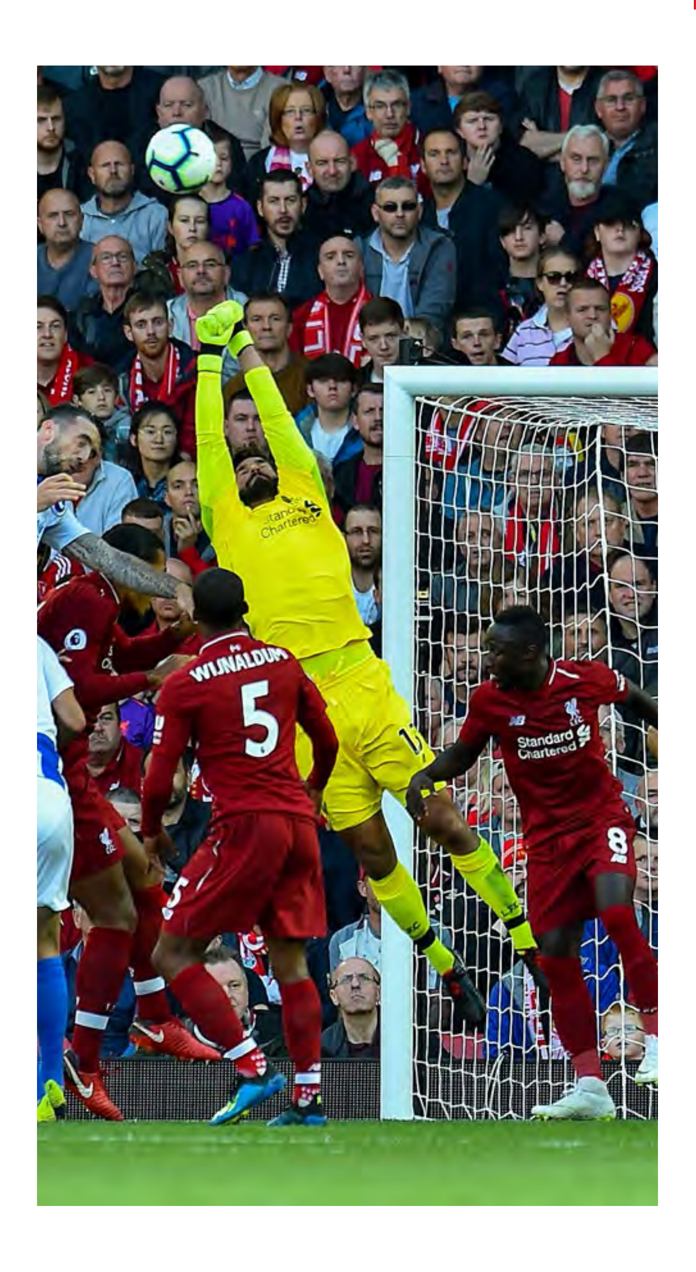
Even since I started playing, the game has changed. It's quicker now but we're looked after very well and the attention-to-detail is massive these days down to the food, training recovery methods. We're fortunate to be looked after in that way so you just have to embrace everything that you're given and see what works for you.

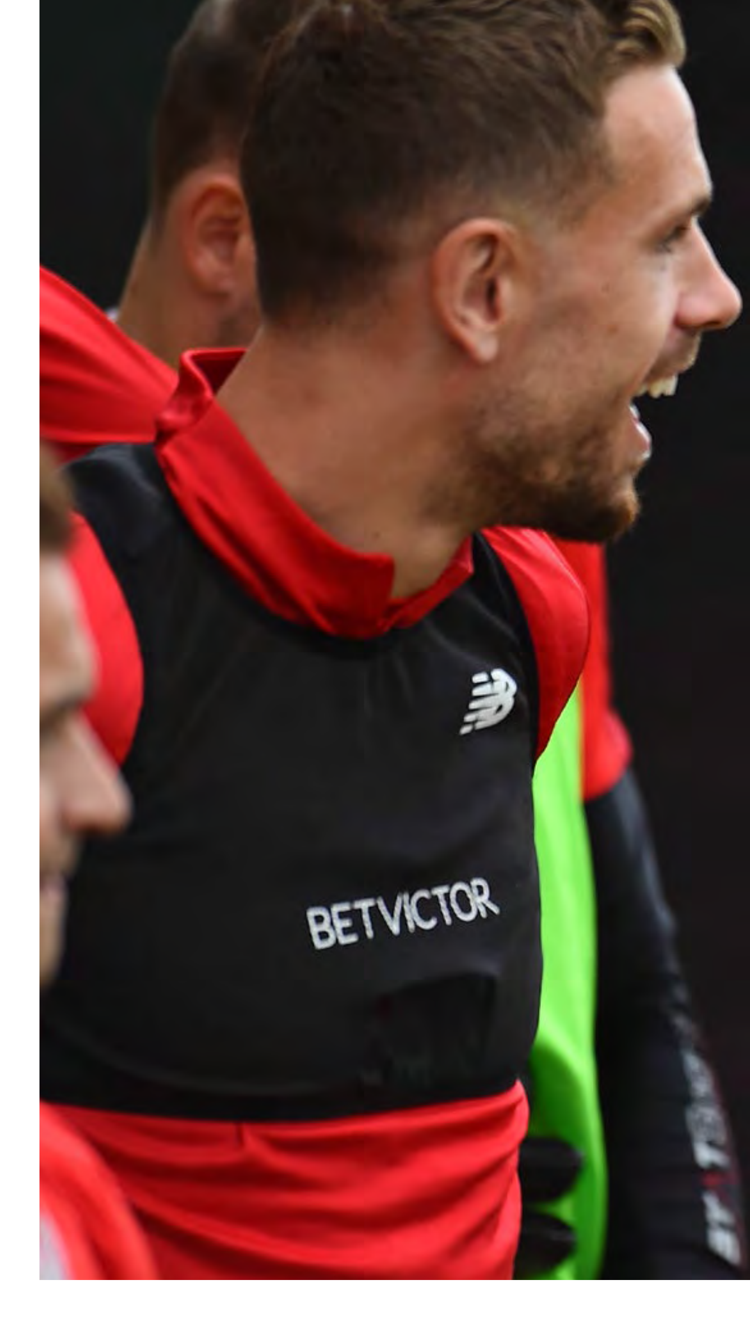
Maybe *Yorkshire Tea* plays a part too! I don't mind the odd cup and representing the home county. Who knows, it might help! As long as I'm performing every time that I step out on the field and I am making it as difficult as possible for the manager to leave me out of the side then I know that I can't do any more than that.

The biggest thing for me is that I just want to be a part of contributing to a successful Liverpool.




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ALISSON ON SONG

We've got competition for places all over the field now and that is what we want. The first day Alisson came in, he made a couple of ridiculous saves in training that made you think would help settle him down straightaway.

He seems a good lad and he's a talented musician too which we have seen when he played his guitar while doing his song in pre-season! He seems to be settling in well.

I'm sure he was nervous before the first game in Dublin and his first game at Anfield too, but I thought he did well. He is very good with his feet and really calm too, so it's for the other keepers to push him and, as I say, it's competition for places which is exactly what we want all over the field.

KEITA IS KEY

I always try and help players like Naby settle in and I try to be aware of what it's like for new players coming in. Not only are they learning the football side but off-the-field things as well.

Moving to a new country and understanding a new language is such a big change and something people maybe don't think about; the times when they are going to be away from the club and how big a change it is in someone's life, moving teams and moving countries.

From the football side we have to help him settle as quickly as possible and obviously having had a full pre-season with us helps. I think it is still going to take time and it will be a while until we see the best of him, I'm sure, but we've seen how good he is already in the first few games. He wins the ball back, has a lot of quality on





the ball, can see a pass and drive from the midfield and get a goal as well.

He'd be a fantastic player for any team really, but I think the way we play will definitely suit his attributes and he'll be a fantastic addition to the squad. He's only going to improve but the way we play is different to a lot of other teams so it can take a bit longer to get to know the system and the way we need to be with and without the ball.

SADIO'S SHIFT

Since he's come into the team he has given us so much going forward with his ability going at players and his finishing. He's unpredictable, too, which is a fantastic thing to have. If we as team-mates are not too sure what he's going to do when he's got the ball, then I'm sure that the opposing defenders don't have a clue either.

He's got so much quality and he does a shift without the ball too. When you get players that good at the top of the field it's easier sometimes to just get him the ball and know he'll do his stuff when he gets it. But the way we play means that's not possible. He knows that he has to do a shift for the team and he does, which is a massively important part of how we play.

POSITIVE VIBES

I think you can see that as a club and as a team we are moving forward. Since I've been here, you can also see the way that the team has changed and a greater consistency.

I think the first year that the manager came in, you saw it in glimpses with how we wanted to play, then in the next game we'd look like a completely different side. I think that's gone now and you've seen the consistency come in. Every time we step out on the field we're playing in the style that we want to play in and we've shown that we can beat anyone.

But maybe that tiny bit more consistency is needed. We've shown that last year and I think we'll hopefully take that into this year, but that is the big difference needed in terms of winning trophies and a club like Liverpool is used to winning trophies. It is expected and it is something that we expect of ourselves as a squad and as individuals. We all came here to win trophies and to be a part of that.

It's been pleasing to get to three finals – and two of those European finals – since I've been at the club. Going through that together, and having those experiences, means that you know what it's like, all the kerfuffle around it with tickets, travel and extra media and so on. But we know that we have to get over the line and you do that by taking it game-on-game and working hard to keep moving forward as a side. I think we've done that in the summer by bringing more good quality players in. Hopefully the players that we had already will keep improving too so there are plenty of positive things for us.



I JUST WANT TO CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH AS I CAN TO THE SIDE AND DO WHATEVER THE MANAGER ASKS ME TO DO

MIXING IT UP

There are times when versatility has definitely helped me and there's been times when I think it's also hindered me. It's not easy playing in different positions but I think it definitely helps you as a player as you understand the game more and you become a better player by knowing what other players are doing in their positions and how you can help them.

I just want to contribute as much as I can to the side and do whatever the manager asks me to do. Being able to play in a number of positions throughout the season will help when there's injuries, suspensions or times in a game when he needs to change formation and maybe doesn't have any substitutes left. Hopefully that helps him out and, like I say, I just want to help as much as I can to the team's attributes.

My preferred position is probably the more central midfield role, with the freedom to break in behind the lines and get wide and put some crosses in and so on. I think I have a good engine out on the field and it's important to use your strengths. Being able to get around the field is one of mine, as well as being involved in the play and defending.

SQUAD STRENGTH

Competition for places is a fantastic thing to have. It's what you want, to be playing with the best players, and we've got a fantastic squad all the way through.

We've got so many games throughout the course of the season that it's not easy to be able to recover and be at the top of your game all the time, so the manager's going to rotate and you know that you have to be on your mettle every time you go out on the training ground and on a Saturday, Sunday or a Monday night or whatever day we play.

It's important that you are ready to go and perform because if you don't, you know that somebody is there to take the shirt off you.

THE ULTIMATE TEST

It's so difficult to win the Premier League. That's why everybody loves to win the league and sees it as such a big thing because it's so difficult to be the best team over 38 games.

It might all be going well for a couple of months at the start of the season when the weather's nice but then you have a couple of tough away-trips in the winter and tough weather. It's the ultimate test to play 38 games, home and away in different climates.

Throughout the season you're going to have injury problems, suspensions, international breaks ruining your rhythm, a tough Christmas period, cup competitions, European fixtures...there are so many things that can make your life difficult so you need consistency and know-how to win different games.

Obviously you're going to come up against some teams who are pushing you and then teams who will sit back and try and nick a draw, so it's about being a complete team and knowing how to adapt to every game that you play.



THE FIRST TWEET WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE IMPORTANT SO WE HAD A THINK ABOUT WHAT TO DO

James Milner @JamesMilner · Mar 22
#TBT to yesterday.... when I wasn't on Twitter!

2.4K 32K 111K

James Milner @JamesMilner · Apr 1
What Easter is all about... trying to find the perfect sized mini egg #10mm
#HappyEaster

893 14K 63K

SOCIAL MEDIA

I wanted to get involved on social media because I enjoy the banter in the dressing-room but after coming into training or being there after training there was less conversation because everyone was looking down at their phones!

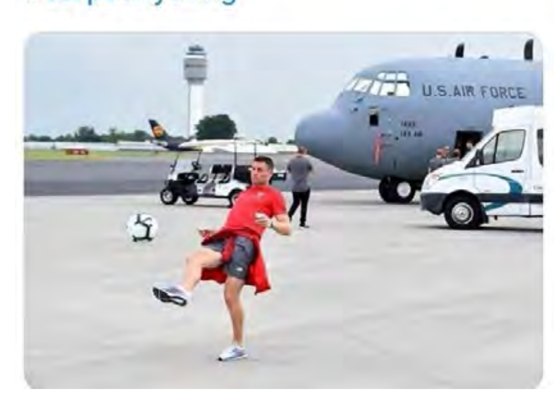
Obviously we all know about the Boring James Milner Twitter account and things like that, the reputation that I had with the Yorkshire accent and probably not coming across as the most exciting guy.

The first tweet was always going to be important so we had a think about what to do. I just chatted with my mate and that's what we went for in the end [a 'Throwback Thursday of James ironing the previous day]. It's just a bit of fun and you have to be able to laugh at yourself.

Another one which went down well was the measuring of the Easter eggs. It took a few goes to get right and kind of evolved to the point of deciding to measure them. I got a bit of stick over it because, unbelievably, it appears that some people prefer Creme Eggs! It was just a bit of a laugh and that's why I came on Twitter in the first place, to get involved in the banter and have a bit of engagement with our fans.



Delayed flight means I got to play just in front of the second most expensive defence in the world #vvd #stopsanything





HE IS REALLY NOW IN A POSITION HE REALLY LOVES, HE IS A VERY ENERGETIC BOY, VERY LIVELY AND LIKES TO COVER BIG DISTANCES

Klopp on Milner

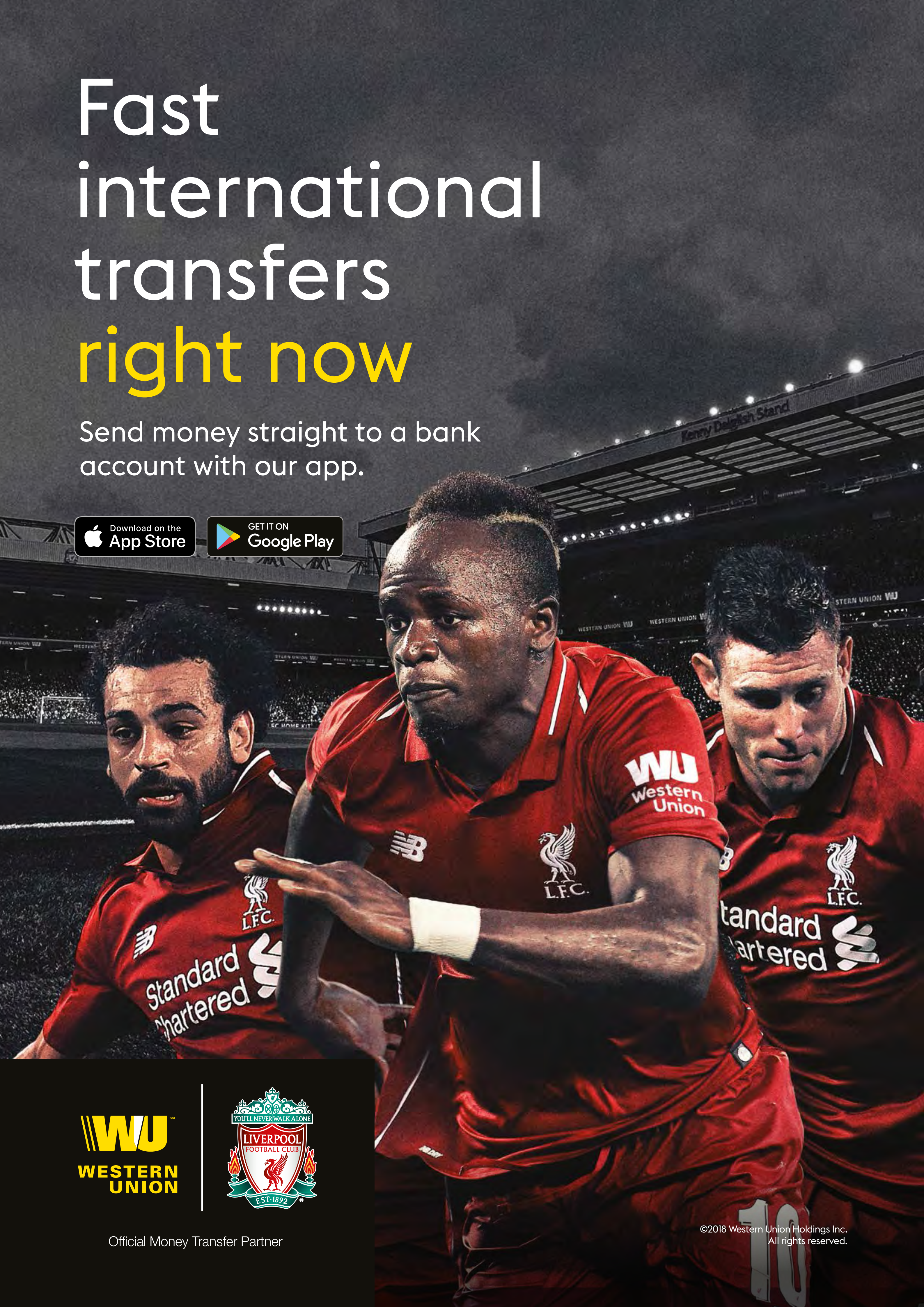
"For sure [his good form is] not only this season. Last year, what was it? Most assists in the Champions League for James Milner, so how can you be surprised when he is doing similar things?

"As I said a few times, only in football does it sound like 32 is a massive age or whatever – in all other parts of life you are still young. He is still young and a proper professional, so that means his body gives him the opportunity to do so, that's for sure.

"But of course it's only not him. A few weeks ago people said maybe we don't need Jordan Henderson or whatever, then he played like he played against PSG. Gini Wijnaldum was maybe not lined-up anymore after we made the signings and stuff like that. They are really good boys and can still improve, that's the good thing. Even James, he is the best example for that.

"He is really now in a position he really loves, he is a very energetic boy, very lively and likes to cover big distances. That helps of course in midfield – but he helped us as well when he played left-back.

"He can play football and that makes him a pretty valuable player."



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SIMPLY THE BLESSED

Bobby has so many tattoos you could say he's a walking work of art, and after netting LFC's fourth in a 4-2 win at Crystal Palace in 2016 he revealed the word 'Blessed' on his stomach. Kopites feel blessed to have him...

POWER OF TEN



The number on the back of Sadio Mane's jersey this season has drawn comparisons with another Liverpool attacking great

Four years ago a Brazilian mathematician conducted a survey to discover the world's favourite number. His sample of 30,000 people picked 1,123 different favourite numbers with every number between one and 100 selected at least once. And the most popular?

The same number that would probably emerge as the favourite if 30,000 Liverpool supporters were asked the same question. Number seven.

Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish and Luis Suarez are primarily responsible for that while James Milner is proving that it isn't just forwards who shine in the Liverpool no7 shirt, but seven isn't everybody's favourite number down Anfield way.

Not only do Roberto Firmino, Sadio Mane and Mo Salah play alongside each other in one of the most fearsome front-threes in world football, they sit alongside each other in number order in the Reds dressing-room.

Since the start of last season Bobby has worn number 9 and Mo number 11, the shirt that Firmino used to have until no9 was vacated by Christian Benteke. For half of the 2017/18 campaign


MANÉ
10
VICT





Different eras, similar kits, same crowd-pleasing brilliance

they had Philippe Coutinho sat between them. But when the little magician vanished to Barcelona in January there was a vacancy, one that was being eyed up from across the dressing-room.

"I was very happy to get it because I have always taken the number 10 everywhere I have gone," Sadio Mane tells us. "When I first came to Liverpool, Philippe had it so I was happy with my number 19, but when he left I thought: it is free, I want to take the number 10 because it has always been my favourite number.

"Everywhere I go, I wore number 10 and now I wear it for Liverpool."

It suits him. Mane had been Liverpool's number 10 for just 45 minutes when he scored his first goal of the season against West Ham United at Anfield and he was on the mark again eight minutes after half-time as the Hammers were hammered 4-0 on the Premier League's opening weekend.

He followed it up with a breakaway goal in the 2-0 win at Crystal Palace on a night when Liverpool wore their new grey third kit for the first time, evoking memories for Kopites who watched LFC in the late 1980s. They'd seen a pacy, skilful, goalscoring winger leave defenders trailing in his wake in a similar-looking strip before.

For many Reds, John Barnes was the best player in Europe during his first three seasons as a Liverpool player following his 1987 arrival from Watford. With the number 10 on his back he elegantly glided past players like they weren't there, bamboozled full-backs with a twist, a turn, a feint or a flash of skill and netted some truly brilliant goals. One slaloming run and neat finish in a 4-0 win against a good QPR side that had David Seaman in goal in October 87 went down in Anfield folklore just four months into his Liverpool career.

Kenny Dalglish's side won the 1987/88 league title at a canter and were dubbed 'better than the Brazilians' after Sir Tom Finney's famous comments following a 5-0 victory against Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest at Anfield: "It's the finest exhibition I've seen in the whole time I've played and watched the game. You couldn't see it bettered anywhere, not even in Brazil."

Barnes was named as both PFA Player of the Year and Football Writers' Footballer of the Year at the end of the season after netting 17 goals in 48 appearances, yet if you compare those statistics to Mane's from last season you might be in for a surprise.

Sadio netted 20 goals in 44 appearances in 2017/18 – a better





ratio than Barnes produced in 1987/88 – and became the first Liverpool player to net in both legs of a Champions League semi-final and the final during the same season.

Indeed if you analyse Barnes' Liverpool stats even further you'll discover the only season that he outscored Mane's 2017/18 total was in 1989/90 (28 goals, six from the penalty-spot) with his other best tallies being 18 (1990/91) and 14 (1988/89).

When you take into account that Mane netted 13 goals in a debut season that was cut short at 29 games due to injury, his goalscoring return stands up to comparison with Barnes. But it's not something the Senegal international wishes to focus upon. There's only one man's goalscoring record for Liverpool that Sadio Mane compares himself to – his own – and he's determined to better his total in 2018/19.

"Comparison is something we find that is a part of football," he smiles. "People always try to compare you with other people. As a player I'm not thinking about this, about great players who did very well for Liverpool. I'm a young player and I want to do the best I can, work hard, try to score more goals for the team and win trophies.

"Of course you would always like to pass your number from last season, especially for good players like me because then you can compare yourself with yourself to see how much more you have done.

"I would love to score more goals than last season. I can't say I've made a bad start, but I will try to do my best to score more goals and also get more assists for my team-mates and for the team."

Given the way he's started the season, you don't need to be a Brazilian mathematician to know that Sadio Mane is good at the numbers game...whatever the number on the back of his shirt.

~~GUEST SPEAKERS~~

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NICE SWAN BOBBY

Firmino was on the mark twice in 15 minutes at the Kop end when Swansea visited Anfield in 2017 and marked one of his goals with a dive any swan would been proud of. You could say it was another of Bobby's cygnet-ure celebrations...

NIGHT





FEVER

Champions League at Anfield under the lights, this time with Paris Saint-Germain in town for the first group game – and our photographers are there to capture the passion and pride

→

Tunnel vision



We mean business





Countdown to kick-off



Natural-born finisher: Daniel Sturridge heads in the first for Liverpool





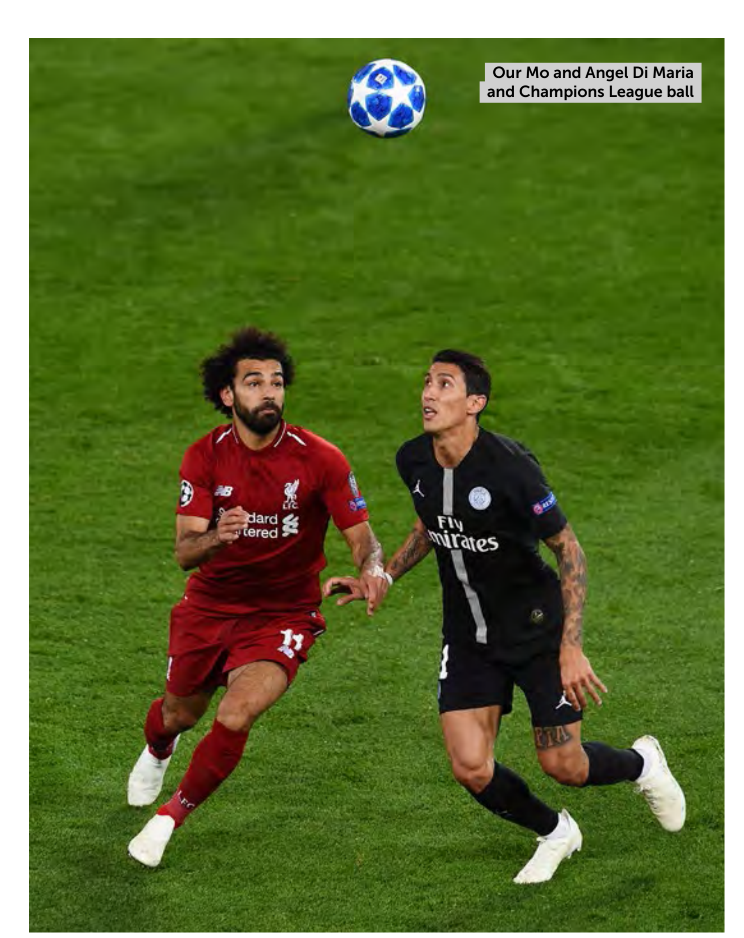


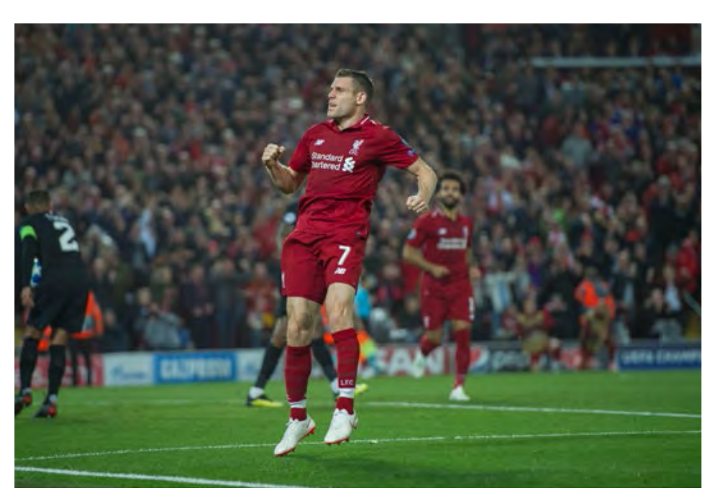

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RESPECT
EQUAL GAME
EXIT

King of cool: James Milner puts away his penalty

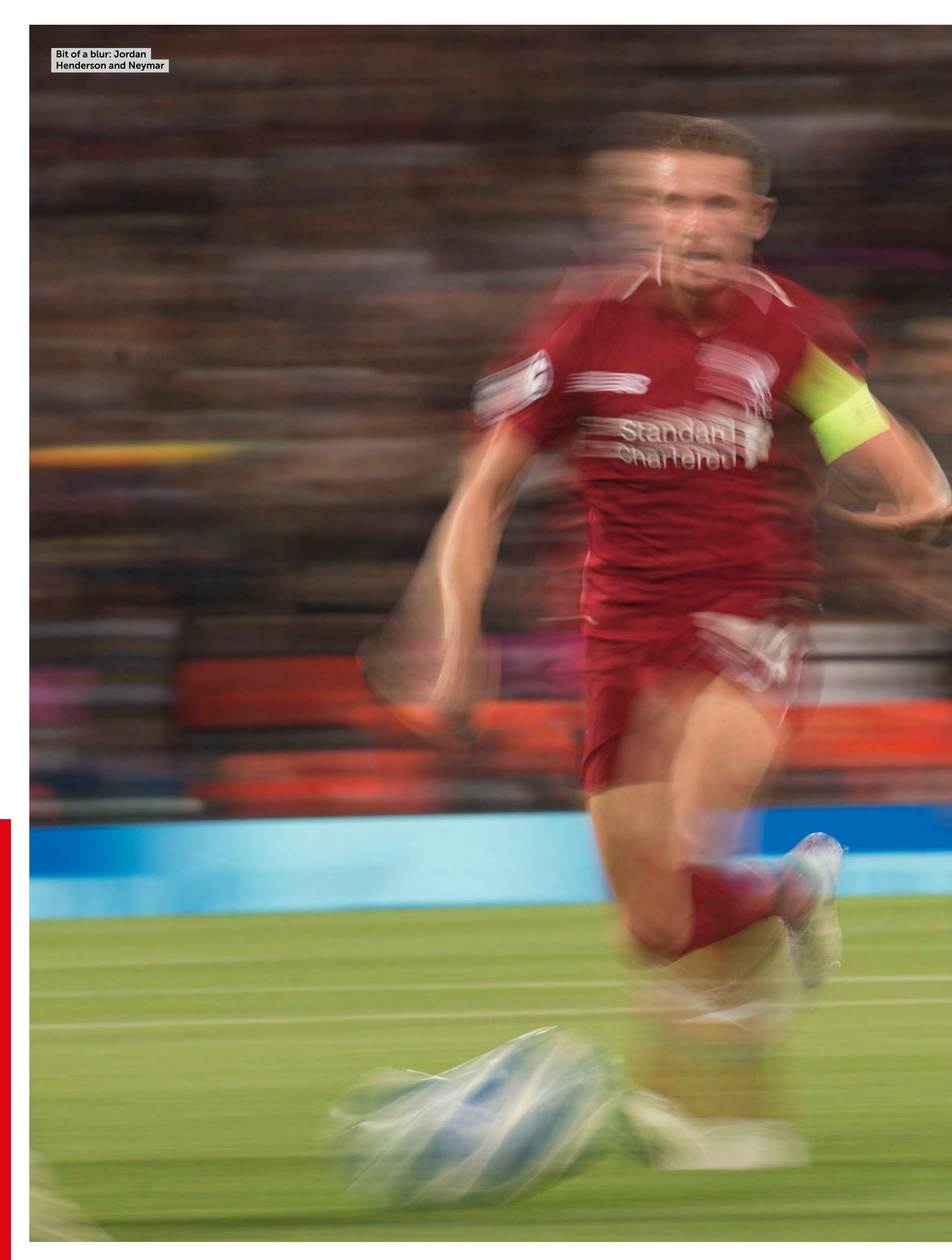

Allez PSG: the visiting fans in fine voice



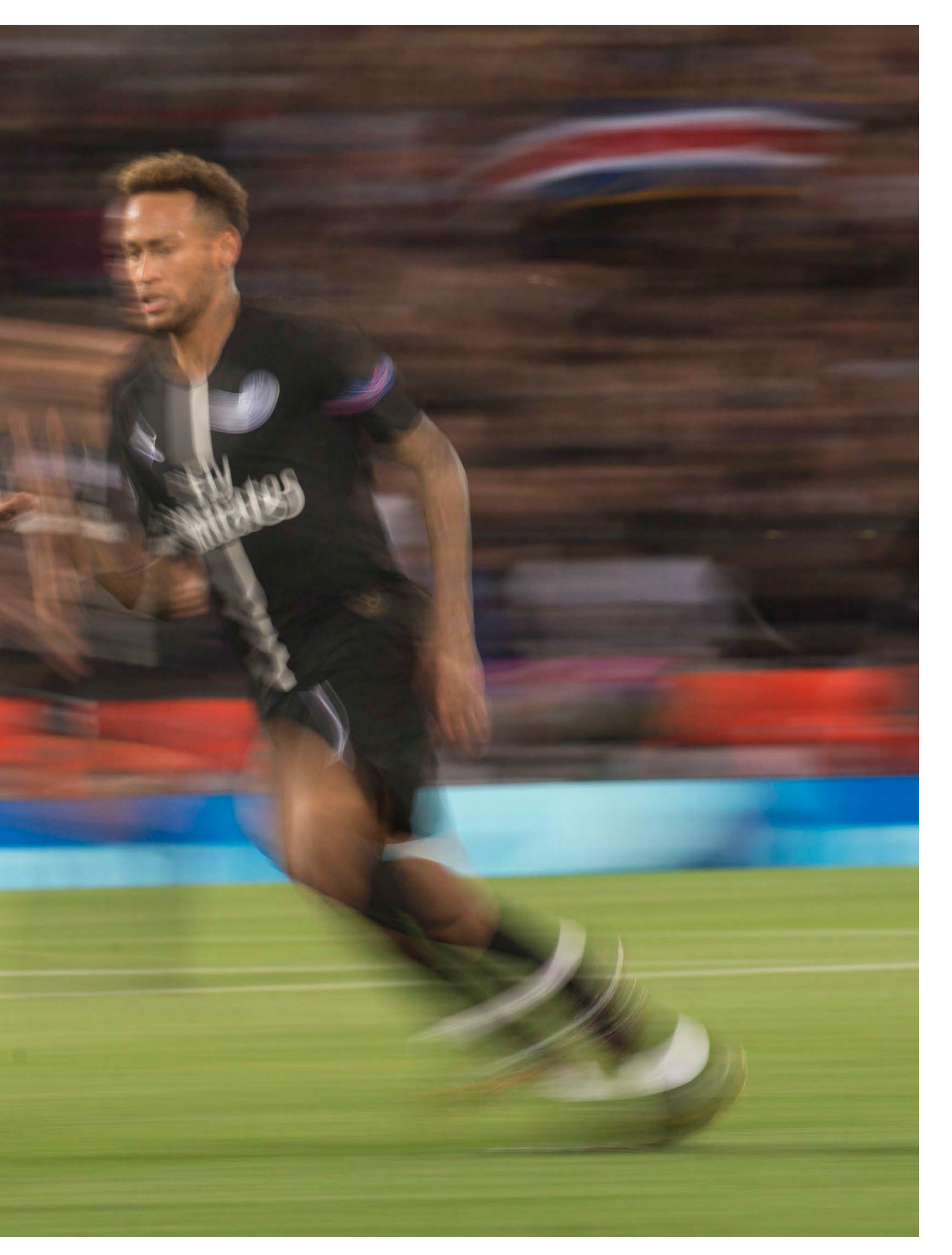

Our Mo and Angel Di Maria and Champions League ball







Bit of a blur: Jordan Henderson and Neymar




Alisson elated



Firmino: making Anfield erupt again


Eye-eye Bobby lad!



Shaq on it!



Well done skipper


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Words: Chris McLoughlin



STURRIDGE

50 PREMIER LEAGUE GOALS

A half-century of top-flight goals for the Reds – from his first at Old Trafford to his stunning 50th at Stamford Bridge

1 MANCHESTER UNITED (A) 13 JAN 2013
Steven Gerrard's shot is pushed out by David de Gea but Sturridge, on as a sub for his LFC Premier League debut, is on hand to tuck the rebound home with his left-foot.

2 NORWICH CITY (H) 19 JAN 2013
A volleyed right-footed cross from Stewart Downing evades the diving Mark Bunn and Sturridge arrives at the far-post to prod in his first Kop-end strike in a red shirt.

3 MANCHESTER CITY (A) 3 FEB 2013
After taking a touch from a Steven Gerrard pass, he fires a low shot in from 25 yards that sees him end up with both feet off the ground as the ball zips past Joe Hart.

4 SWANSEA CITY (H) 17 FEB 2013
His first converted penalty for the Reds, Sturridge also nets his first goal at the Anfield Road end by placing the ball high to Michel Vorm's right from 12 yards out.



5 CHELSEA (H) 21 APRIL 2013
Three months after being signed from Chelsea he reminds them what they've lost with a first-time finish with his left instep from a clipped cross by Luis Suarez.

6 NEWCASTLE UNITED (A) 27 APRIL 2013
Philippe Coutinho's cute pass plays Sturridge in and after taking a neat touch he rifles the ball into the roof of the Magpies net.

7 NEWCASTLE UNITED (A) 27 APRIL 2013
Sturridge's second in six minutes of a 6-0 win on Tyneside is a simple right-footed tap-in after Jordan Henderson's square pass leaves the goal gaping in front of him.

8 FULHAM (A) 12 MAY 2013
A bit of left-footed trickery in the box takes Sturridge past marker Aaron Hughes before he blasts a right-footed shot over Mark Schwarzer into the roof of the net.

9 FULHAM (A) 12 MAY 2013
Although Coutinho slips as he goes to shoot, the ball lands at the feet of Sturridge and he takes a touch before rolling a precise effort across Schwarzer into the corner.

10 FULHAM (A) 12 MAY 2013
A first Reds hat-trick is completed when he races onto Coutinho's pass and lobs it over the onrushing Schwarzer to reach 10 Prem goals for LFC quicker than anyone.

11 STOKE CITY (H) 17 AUG 2013
Sturridge settles a tight opening-day Anfield contest with a precise left-footed low shot from outside the area that goes just inside Asmir Begovic's left-hand post.

12 ASTON VILLA (A) 24 AUG 2013
Taking Jose Enrique's pass in his stride Sturridge skips past one tackle, rounds goalie Brad Guzan and pokes a shot into the roof of the net above two defenders on the goal-line.

13 MANCHESTER UNITED (H) 1 SEPT 2013
Daniel's first headed goal for Liverpool proves to be the winner after he flicks Daniel Agger's header over the line from close-range with the back of his head.





14 SWANSEA CITY (A) 16 SEPT 2013
Jonjo Shelvey forgets he's moved from Liverpool to Swansea and puts a back-pass straight into the path of Sturridge who sweeps home with a first-time finish.

15 SUNDERLAND (A) 29 SEPT 2013
Arriving at the far-post to meet Steven Gerrard's corner, the ball inadvertently hits Sturridge's elbow and bounces into the net for a goal that is allowed to stand.

16 CRYSTAL PALACE (H) 5 OCT 2013
Receiving the ball on the left flank he cuts inside the area before twisting his way past Damien Delaney and rifling a low angled drive just inside the far post.

17 NEWCASTLE UNITED (A) 19 OCT 2013
Victor Moses' pass sends Luis Suarez charging into the Newcastle penalty-area and his driven cross is met by Sturridge who stoops to send a diving header into the net.

18 WEST BROMWICH ALBION (H) 26 OCT 2013
Controlling the ball under pressure from Youssuf Mulumbu it looks like nothing is on but Sturridge sends an impudent chip over Boaz Myhill at the Kop end.

19 EVERTON (A) 23 NOV 2013
Liverpool are 3-2 down at Everton with just a minute to play but when Steven Gerrard curls a free-kick into the box Sturridge rises highest to flick home a header.

20 STOKE CITY (A) 12 JAN 2014
A crazy game at the Britannia finishes 5-3 when substitute Sturridge juggles with the ball after his first effort is saved before smashing it home from five yards out.

21 ASTON VILLA (H) 18 JAN 2014
Alert to an audacious back-heel pass from Jordan Henderson, he reacts before the Villa defence and clips a right-footed shot over the en-rushing Brad Guzan.

22 EVERTON (H) 28 JAN 2014
A Coutinho pass sends Sturridge racing clear and after composing himself with a couple of touches he lifts a shot over Tim Howard at the Annie Road end.

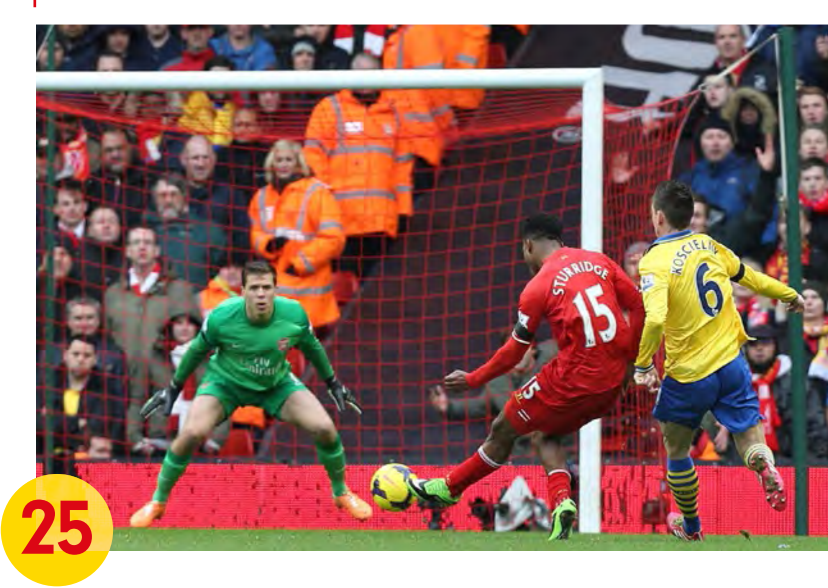
23 EVERTON (H) 28 JAN 2014
Everton's defence are taken out by a long pass and Sturridge lets the ball bounce before sending a lob – that seems to take ages to come down – over Howard.

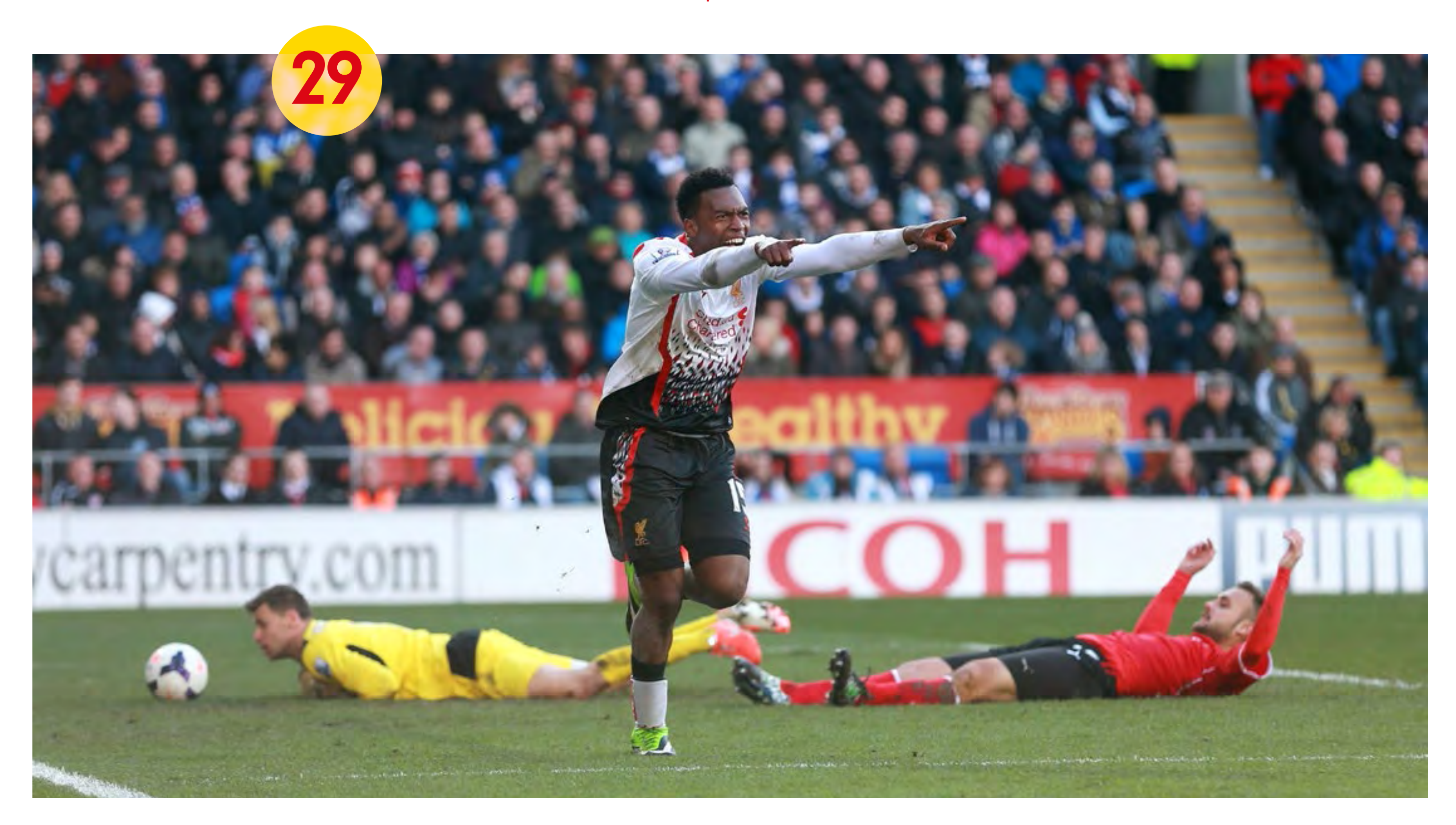
24 WEST BROMWICH ALBION (A) 2 FEB 2014
Perhaps the simplest goal of his 50 in the Premier League. Luis Suarez chips over a cross past four defenders and keeper Ben Foster for Sturridge to nudge home.

25 ARSENAL (H) 8 FEB 2014
An iconic goal – Liverpool's fourth in the opening 20 minutes of a famous 5-1 win – comes when Coutinho plays Sturridge through and he places a shot past Szczesny.

26 FULHAM (A) 12 FEB 2014
Played clean through by a stunning outside-of-the-boot defence-splitting pass by Steven Gerrard, Daniel opens up his body and curls a left-footed shot in off the post.

27 SWANSEA CITY (H) 23 FEB 2014
Raheem Sterling's through-ball turns into a race between Sturridge and Michel Vorm with the Reds striker there first, rounding the keeper and slotting home.





28 SWANSEA CITY (H) 23 FEB 2014
Suarez was a master of innovation and this was another goal down to his brilliance with the no7 scooping a cross over four defenders for Sturridge to nod past Vorm.

29 CARDIFF CITY (A) 22 MARCH 2014
Suarez-to-Sturridge-to-goal was a common theme in 2013/14 and it happened again in Cardiff with Daniel slotting home right-footed from a low pass in a 6-3 win.

30 SUNDERLAND (H) 26 MARCH 2014
As Sturridge reaches the edge of the area, ex-Reds full-back Andrea Dossena allows him to cut inside onto his left foot and he curls the ball into the top corner.

31 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) 11 MAY 2014
Right place, right time, yet again as Sturridge arrives at the far post to knock Steven Gerrard's free-kick in for his 21st Premier League goal of the 2013/14 campaign.

32 SOUTHAMPTON (H) 17 AUG 2014
A half-cleared cross is headed back across goal by Raheem Sterling and Sturridge steals in between Nathaniel Clyne and Dejan Lovren to flick the ball home.

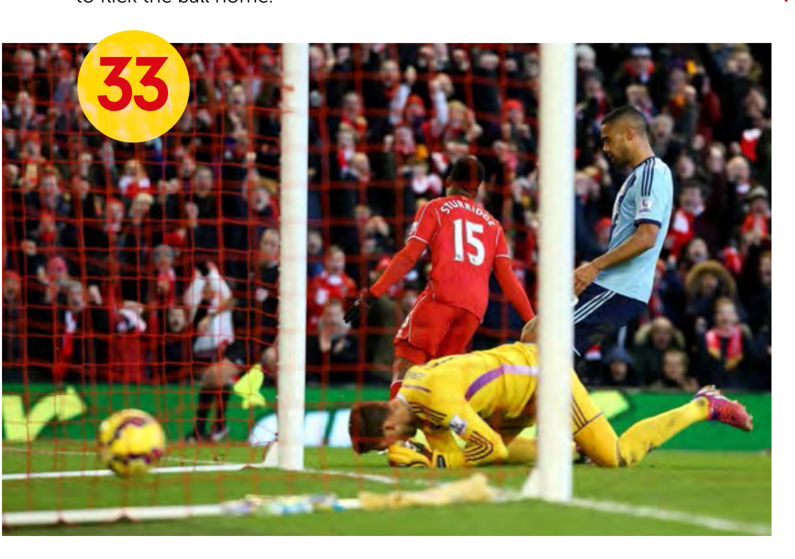
33 WEST HAM UNITED (H) 31 JAN 2015
Receiving a Coutinho pass, Sturridge catches out keeper Adrian by shooting with his right foot, instead of cutting back onto his left, and the ball flies in at the near post.

34 BURNLEY (H) 04 MARCH 2015
Spotting Jordan Henderson is about to curl a cross to the far post, Daniel makes a run between two defenders and rises high to head firmly past Tom Heaton.

35 MANCHESTER UNITED (H) 22 MARCH 2015
It appears as if Coutinho's pass is running away from Sturridge but a burst of acceleration allows him to reach the ball before he whips a low shot past David de Gea.

36 ASTON VILLA (H) 26 SEPT 2015
James Milner lobs a pass over his head towards Sturridge who's racing towards the area and he strikes the ball with a first-time volley that whistles past Brad Guzan.

37 ASTON VILLA (H) 26 SEPT 2015
Dribbling into the box, Daniel plays a neat one-two with Coutinho before rolling a right-footed shot into the bottom corner as Guzan can only stand and watch.





38 ASTON VILLA (A) 14 FEB 2016
Villa are on the end of a 6-0 St Valentines Day massacre with Sturridge heading home from Coutinho's cross before celebrating with his wriggly-arm dance.

39 SOUTHAMPTON (A) 20 MARCH 2016
Divock Origi tees up Sturridge with a pass and using left-back Ryan Bertrand as a shield he curls the ball beyond the right hand of the diving Fraser Forster.

40 STOKE CITY (H) 10 APRIL 2016
Sheyi Ojo nutmegs Xherdan Shaqiri on the left wing and sends over an inch-perfect cross for Sturridge to leap at the far-post and meet with his head.

41 BOURNEMOUTH (A) 17 APRIL 2016
He's now at Bournemouth himself but Jordon Ibe created this Sturridge goal, chipping a free-kick into the area for Daniel to steer into the net with a header.

42 EVERTON (H) 20 APRIL 2016
Sturridge's 42nd Prem goal for LFC is his 50th in all competitions and comes against Everton with a clinical left-footed finish, from a Lucas pass, leaving the net bulging.

43 NEWCASTLE UNITED (H) 23 APRIL 2016
Controlling a pass on his chest with his back to goal and two defenders right behind him, D aniel turns on a sixpence and hooks a shot beyond the reach of Karl Darlow.

44 STOKE CITY (H) 27 DEC 2016
Ryan Shawcross fails to spot Sturridge behind him and sends his back-pass straight to the Reds no15 who uses a step-over to beat Lee Grant before slotting home.

45 SUNDERLAND (A) 2 JAN 2017
Dejan Lovren's volley from a corner bounces and loops high towards the six-yard box where Sturridge redirects a header back across goal and past Vito Mannone.



46 WEST HAM UNITED (A) 14 MAY 2017
West Ham's defensive line is ripped apart by Coutinho's through-ball and Sturridge races clear and rounds Adrian to score LFC's first-ever goal at the London Stadium.

47 ARSENAL (H) 27 AUG 2017
Arsenal are beaten 4-0 at Anfield by Jürgen Klopp's rampant Reds and it's Sturridge who completes the scoring, heading home Mo Salah's cross in front of the Kop.

48 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (H) 28 OCT 2017
The 100th goal of Daniel's club career comes at Anfield when defender Tommy Smith's attempted clearance plays him through and he lifts a shot over Jonas Lossl.

49 WEST HAM UNITED (H) 12 AUG 2018
Just 24 seconds after coming on as a sub for Mo Salah, he pounces at the far-post to turn the ball in after Milner's corner has been flicked on by Robert Snodgrass.

50 CHELSEA (A) 29 SEPT 2018
Receiving Shaqiri's pass 25 yards from goal he takes a touch, looks up and sends a curling left-footer dipping over Kepa Arrizabalaga for a stunning late equaliser.

50


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CLASSIC FIRMINO

The travelling Kop were still singing after Philippe Coutinho's equaliser at Stoke City in 2017 when Bobby smashed one home from 25 yards and celebrated in front of them like a shirtless tenor warbling the last line of an opera. Pure class...

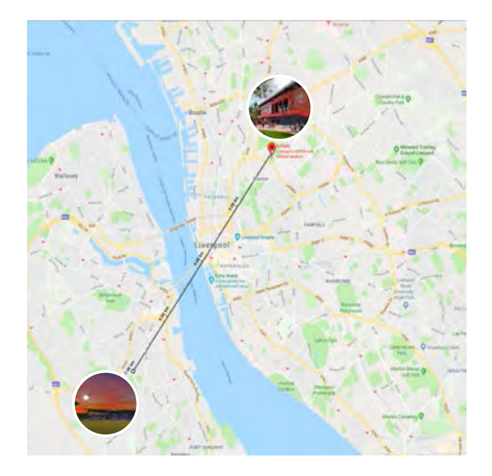
EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS







Words: Peter Kenny Jones



Prenton Park isn't much more than an Alisson long-throw away from Anfield – so no wonder the Reds and Tranmere Rovers go back such a long way

What was unusual about Liverpool's pre-season friendly at Tranmere Rovers on Tuesday 10 July earlier this year, a game that the Reds won 3-2 thanks to goals from Rafael Camacho, Sheyi Ojo and Adam Lallana?

In fact, not a lot. For all the demands of the modern game, the lure of summer tours and the busy, busy schedules, the Reds always try to make a point of heading 'over the water' when possible. They did so to play Tranmere in July 2017 and July 2016, too, with plenty of star names on show and Jürgen Klopp charming the locals.

This year Liverpool Women are playing their home games at Prenton Park. Last season the Under-19s, under Steven Gerrard, competed there in the UEFA Youth League. The links between the clubs, separated by six miles of land and sea (okay, river), seem as healthy as ever.

For all that, there have only ever been four official matches between the two. After a few friendlies – either testimonials or in what was called the 'Birkenhead Hospitals Cup' – Rovers and the Reds met for the first time in a competitive game on Saturday 27 January 1934 in an FA Cup fourth-round tie.

Tranmere had been originally drawn as the home side but they requested the game be switched from the Wirral to L4 to attract more fans. An incredible 61,036 obliged – nearly double the Anfield average – and Liverpool ran out 3-1 victors in what the *Echo* described as an "exciting moment" in Merseyside football.

Another 50 years would pass before the clubs met competitively again, this time in the League Cup second round: goalless at Prenton Park then 4-0 at Anfield to a Liverpool side soon to travel around 2,300 miles for a European Cup first-round return-leg in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In those days Tranmere had a tabloid-sized, 'news-style' matchday programme called *The Prenton*, and it welcomed the two-legged format of the tie: "As far as Rovers are concerned they've got the draw they could only have dreamed about. This double-header against champions Liverpool will almost certainly set Tranmere up financially for most of the season."

In the Rovers team that Wednesday 29 August 1979 was veteran winger Steve Peplow, a former Anfield apprentice who'd made three senior appearances for the Reds ten years earlier – the first against West Ham at Anfield in the first game shown in colour by the BBC's *Match of the Day*. In goal was Dickie Johnson, Huyton-born and – like skipper Ray Mathias – a lifelong Liverpool fan. He told the programme: 'This has got to be the highlight of my career."

Elsewhere in the issue Ray Stubbs, then Tranmere's commercial manager before going on to become a TV presenter, roll-called the ex-Reds who'd joined Rovers in recent years. Ron Yeats, player-manager from 1971-74; fellow Scots Willie Stevenson, Tommy Lawrence, Ian St John and Bobby Graham; and Kit Fagan, son of legendary Liverpool trainer Joe.

Three-and-a-half years later, with Rovers in the old Fourth Division and perilously close to going under, a near full-strength Reds team returned for a fund-raising friendly on Monday 10 January 1983.

This time the matchday programme was a single, double-sided sheet of A4 paper with the following thank-you message:

"It is not every day of the week that something like this happens to Tranmere Rovers. That is why such a fabulous offer by the Liverpool FC chairman, directors and manager Bob Paisley to play here is really and truly appreciated by us all, including our supporters.

"What the attendance will be is anyone's



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3. Dave BURGESS
4. Kevin MOONEY
5. Bryan HAMILTON
6. Reg McGUIRE
7. Mark FERGUSON
8. Neville POWELL
9. John KERR
10. Owen BROWN
11. Ian GRIFFITHS
12. Ray WOODS

LIVERPOOL
Red Shirts
Red Shorts
Red Stockings
1. Bruce GROBBELAAR
2. Phil NEAL
3. Alan KENNEDY
4. Mark LAWRENSON
5. Craig JOHNSTON
6. Alan HANSEN
7. Ronnie WHELAN
8. Sammy LEE
9. Ian RUSH
10. David HODGSON
11. Graeme SOUNESS
12. David FAIRCLOUGH

Referee:
MR. RON BRIDGES
(Deeside)

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MR. R. HUNTER
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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.**

Rafa Camacho opens the scoring in July's friendly

ALDRIDGE IS LIKE A GUNSLINGER: HE SHOWS NO EMOTION, HE KILLS PEOPLE AND GOES AWAY



guess because in these times of high unemployment and shortage of cash after the Christmas spending spree and the cup ties last Saturday it is difficult to judge [for the record over 6,000 were there].

"But we do know that the ones who do come along will enjoy a happy occasion with, we hope, pleasant memories."

These were the days when Tranmere regularly played their home games on Friday nights, so as not to clash with Liverpool or Everton home fixtures and thereby entice Reds and Blues across the Mersey to watch some decent lower-league football.

Fast-forward to March 2001 and a televised, hugely entertaining FA Cup quarter-final, Gerard Houllier's Reds beating John Aldridge's Whites 4-2 en route to the second trophy of a treble that season.

The clubs have never met competitively since and perhaps this has contributed to their cordial relationship. Despite the geographical proximity there is no real rivalry to speak of, Tranmere's time in the lower leagues thwarting hopes of regular engagements.

Rovers fans consider Chester and Wrexham as the teams they most like to beat, although Bolton Wanderers under Sam Allardyce had some tasty encounters with Aldridge's Tranmere in the late 1990s.

Aldo, more than anyone, is the common denominator between Reds and Rovers. After two unforgettable seasons scoring a half-century of league goals for his beloved Liverpool between 1987 and 1989, he moved to Real Sociedad in Spain's Basque Country and later returned, aged 32, to join Tranmere, then managed by the great Johnny King in the old Second Division.

Aldridge hit the ground running and scored 40 goals in his first season with the Super Whites, 1991/92. King's quote about him is the stuff of legends: "Aldridge is like a gunslinger: he shows no emotion, he kills people and goes away."

In all he found the net 174 times in 294 games as Tranmere reached three successive play-offs (1993-95) but couldn't quite get to Wembley for the right to compete for a place in the Premier League.

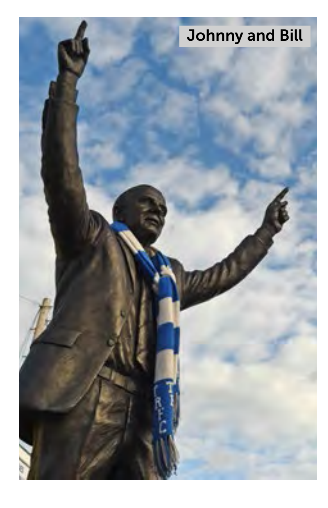
In 1994 he also fired them to the League Cup semis where they lost on penalties to Aston Villa after drawing 4-4 on aggregate.

Two years later Aldo became player-manager, hanging up his boots for good in 1998 then guiding Rovers to the 2000 League Cup final. Along the way they took the Premier League scalps of Middlesbrough and Coventry City, then vanquished Big Sam's Bolton in the semi-finals before losing 2-1 to Leicester City (for whom Emile Heskey played) at Wembley.

His knock-out expertise continued in the following season's FA Cup as Rovers defeated Everton 3-0 at Goodison Park then Southampton 4-3 at home – after trailing 3-0 at half-time – before the visit from his beloved old club in the last eight.

AT TRANMERE I'D ALWAYS LOOK MYSELF FOR WHO TOOK FREE-KICKS AND PENALTIES FOR THE OPPO AND AT LIVERPOOL OUR ANALYSTS DO THE SAME


John Achterberg in goal for Rovers against Liverpool back in 2001


Johnny and Bill



In goal for Tranmere against Liverpool that day was John Achterberg, the likeable Dutch keeper who'd spend eleven years at Prenton Park as player and coach before joining LFC's Academy staff in June 2009.

His grounding at Rovers held him in good stead, he reveals. "Towards the end of my time at Tranmere when I was player-coach I would look myself for who took the opponent's penalties and free-kicks. Here at Liverpool we have a number of good analysts so I ask them to help me with gathering footage and so on.

"We have meetings with the goalies before each game to look at free-kicks, corners, penalties, what the opponents will want to do, where they put pressure on, what their strikers like to do, and how we might like to play out...

"People probably never think of half of the things we look at, but there is a lot of thinking behind it and that is how much goes into it in terms of our preparation for a game nowadays."

John's career at Prenton Park – 350 appearances over eleven years – dovetailed with Jason McAteer's three-year spell at the club, the former Reds wing-back skippering the side when they reached the 2004/05 League One play-offs. Having hung up his boots two years later, Birkenhead-born McAteer returned in 2009 to become assistant-manager to former Liverpool great John Barnes, but their ill-fated tenure in the dugout lasted just four months.

Johnny King, in contrast, was in charge at Rovers for two memorable spells: from 1975-80 when they played Liverpool that time in the League Cup; and from 1987-96 when he led them from the wilderness to Wembley appearances and the verge of a place in the Premier League.

Johnny was Tranmere's Bill Shankly, and Bill was his hero. His office had a framed portrait of Shanks, and he possessed a similar turn-of-phrase to the great man, once declaring: "Tranmere Rovers may never be able to compete with Liverpool or Everton – they're big liners like the *Queen Mary*. However, I see Tranmere as a deadly submarine, attacking them silently from beneath with a torpedo!"

Fittingly the statues of King and Shankly outside the Kops of their stadiums were sculpted by the same man, Tom Murphy, and Johnny has a stand named after him too. Their like shall never be seen again.

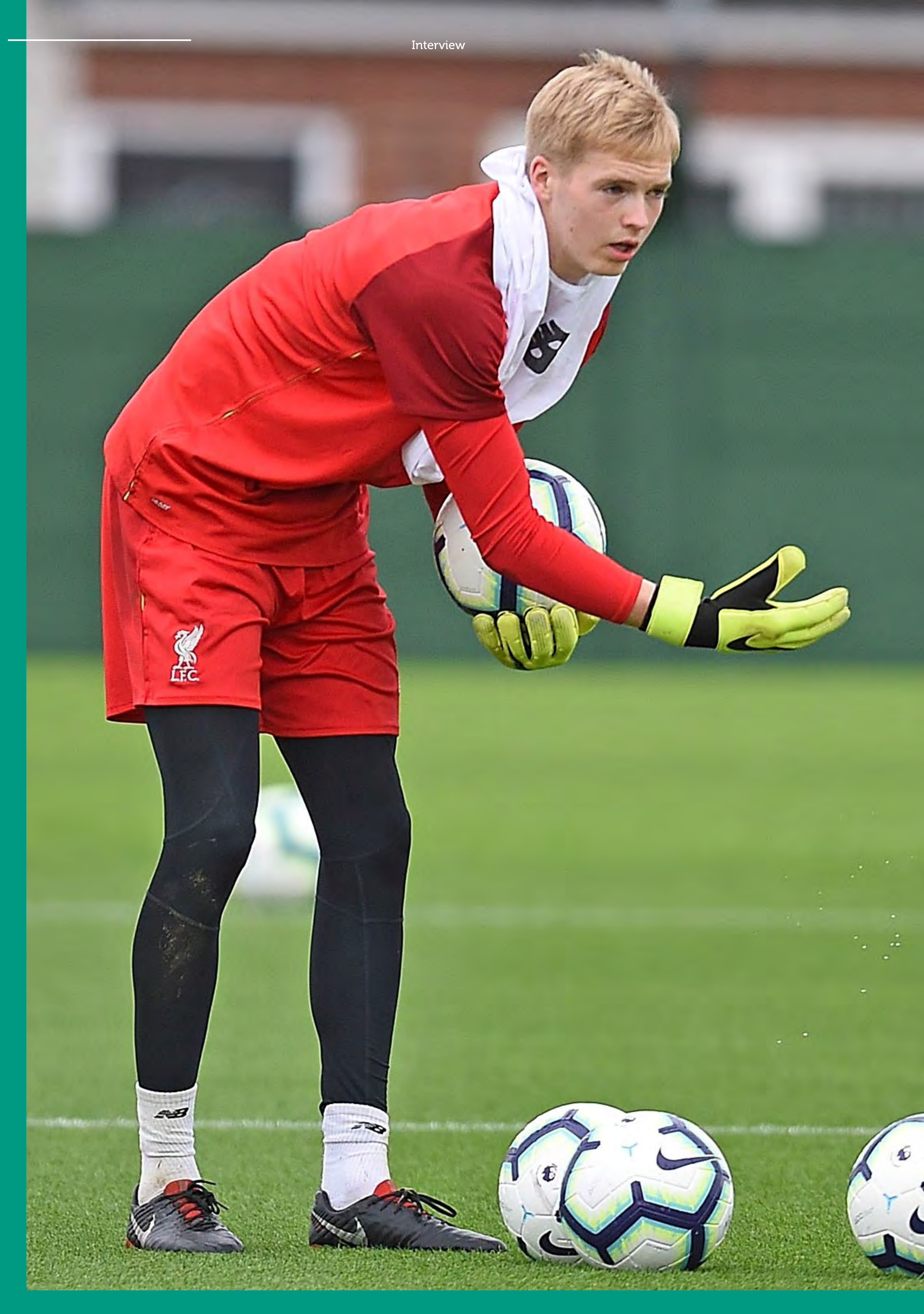


Sheyi Ojo goes close in the July 2017 friendly at Prenton Park



GET SHORTY

Some players don't celebrate scoring against former clubs but Bobby marked his strike in a 4-2 Anfield win against 1899 Hoffenheim by lowering his shorts to his knees and shuffle-dancing in front of the Kop. There's probably a Brazilian music video on YouTube that explains why!


L.F.C.

PLAYING FOR KEEPS

Young Reds goalie Caoimhin Kelleher on pre-season thrills, Alisson's impact and pronunciation problems!



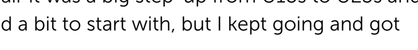
Words: William Hughes

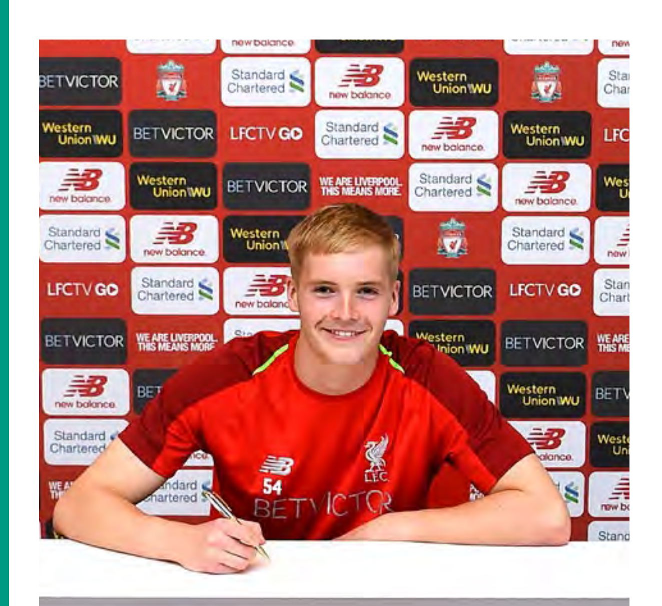
Firstly, you'll be a new name to some supporters so tell us about your journey from Cork to Liverpool goalkeeper...
I started playing football when I was eight or nine, playing as an outfield player. When I was about 13 or 14 our goalkeeper quit so I just put my hand up and went in. From there I went on trials with different teams and finally Liverpool asked me over from Ireland for a trial. I signed for the club from there in 2015.

Were you a good outfield player?
I was decent like, but better in goal! I'd played in a goal a few times just with my friends and I really liked playing there. When I went in goal for matches I really enjoyed it and I think having been an outfield player first has helped me a lot because I'm comfortable with the ball at my feet. I'm right-footed and it's easier for me to play the ball out having played outfield. I think that's important now for goalkeepers.

How much did you develop at the LFC Academy and who's been the biggest influences on your development?
I developed lots at the Academy. I went over there when I was 16 and worked with Taff [Neil Edwards], the Under-18s goalie coach, and also Mark Morris, goalie coach with the Under-23s. They helped me a lot. Every day I was training with them and I feel I've improved so much for that.

To be fair it was a big step-up from U18s to U23s and I struggled a bit to start with, but I kept going and got





used to it after a bit. You improve a lot more playing with the U23s and I've grown physically too since I've been here. I'm skinny now like, but I was even skinnier when I got here! I did a lot of work in the gym with the sports scientists who have helped me lots.

You mentioned the step-up from U18s to U23s – how big a jump is it to then train at Melwood with the first-team?

When I was a first-year scholar I went up to Melwood once or twice but I was more of a regular there in my second and third year. I'm kind of used to it now, but when I first came up to Melwood the step-up was massive. Everything was quicker and it does take time to adjust, but you've just got to stick with it. The results come afterwards because you improve a lot for it and I'm quite a relaxed person, to be fair. I take everything as it comes and just try my best.

What's it like facing forwards such as Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino on the training pitch?

It's good to be training with them every day – they're probably the best front-three in the world. Training with them can only improve me. Obviously they score goals past me and I think you can learn from a mixture of both training with forwards like that and also from the working with the other goalkeepers. I can learn from Alisson or Simon Mignolet about how to save shots, for instance, but when you're facing the strikers they are replicating what will happen in a game.

You came on for the first time in pre-season at Blackburn – were you nervous, and when did you find out you were going on the pre-season tour to the USA?

I don't really tend to get that nervous, to be honest, but I was a little bit, obviously. Once I came on at Blackburn it was just another game and I took it in my stride, but I was delighted to come on.

I was told I was going on the tour when I came back at the start of pre-season. We knew Simon was still away at the World Cup, but the manager wanted to take three goalkeepers. I couldn't wait to go away with them. It was my first time on a pre-season tour.

What kind of experience was it for you?

It was class. Being with the first-team players all the time and seeing what they do every day meant I could learn a lot. Just being in that atmosphere with them was really good because I was with them 24/7 and got to see how professional they are, the things they do and why they're the best.

You played for the whole of the second half v Man City in New Jersey and received praise for your performance – what are your memories of that night?

I remember coming on and making a save from Leroy Sane pretty early on in the second half. I played well and I was quite calm, to be fair. City are a class team and it was an experience playing against such good players. They're the Premier League champions and it gave me a lot of confidence to have played well against them.

You then played in the second half v Man United in Michigan in front of 100,000 fans and kept a clean-sheet – what was it like?

There were so many people there in the crowd! It was unbelievable when I walked out into that stadium but when you're playing you forget about that and

ON THE SUMMER TOUR I GOT TO SEE HOW PROFESSIONAL THE FIRST-TEAM PLAYERS ARE AND WHY THEY'RE THE BEST



concentrate on the game. It's more before a game when you think about how many people are there. During it you just focus on the game and to play against Man U was class as well.

The manager told a press-conference that you're "an outstanding talent" and"very cool with the ball" – what was that like to hear?
It was nice, like, but I don't like to listen to that stuff too much. It's obviously good to hear but I just want to focus on working hard every day to prove that I'm good enough to be here. It does give you confidence to know the manager rates you and likes you. I just have to keep doing what I'm doing.

How important is it that the manager has a reputation for giving young players opportunities?
Of course that's important. We've seen the likes of Trent do well after being given his opportunity and he gave a lot of us young lads a chance in pre-season. It gives you hope that if you do well he will give you a chance, but it is harder for the goalkeepers because experience is a factor in our position.

Goalkeepers tend to be at their peak in their later years so you have to be more patient when you're a goalie. Experience isn't everything, but if you've seen a lot of situations before you know better how to deal with them.

What has Alisson been like to train with?
It's been really good training with Alisson. I'm learning a lot from him and if he sees something in training you can do better he'll tell you and help you out. He's a really nice guy as well off the pitch so it's really good working with him and also with Simon. The standard they train at every day is really high and that only improves you and makes you want to be as good as they are.

How proud were you to sign a new contract recently, and could you end up going out on-loan to gain experience?
It was a very proud moment for me to sign another contract and I was delighted to sign a long deal. Once the offer came in I was happy, it was an easy decision really. I think if the option does arrive for me to go out on-loan it would be something that interests me. You can't beat first-team football for getting experience, it really helps your development, so that would be good. When you're playing for results and points there is more pressure on the game and that's one of the major factors for going out on-loan, to experience that.

You trained with Ireland's senior team during the September international break…
It was great to get the call to go for a few days of training with them and I really enjoyed it. The lads were really welcoming and it was good to get in with the senior set-up and train with them. How they train is really good and it gave me a taste of what it is like at that level, which was another important experience.

Finally, how often do people pronounce your first name wrong?
Nearly every day! It's pronounced 'Quivine' – make sure you put that in!





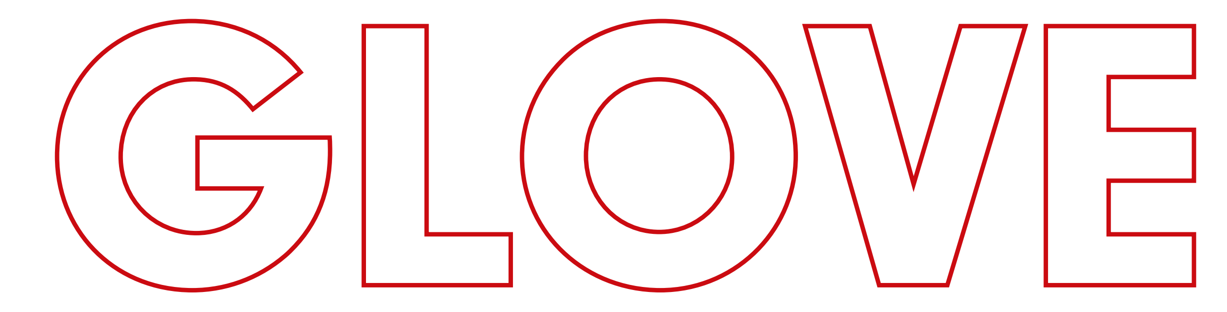
KING OF KUNG FU

It wasn't the first time Bobby had celebrated scoring for LFC with a kung fu kick but he decided to whip out his most-used celebration during the 5-0 Champions League win in Porto: "I have celebrated one of my goals like that once before," he'd previously said about it. "It was not well noticed at the time, but I enjoyed it."



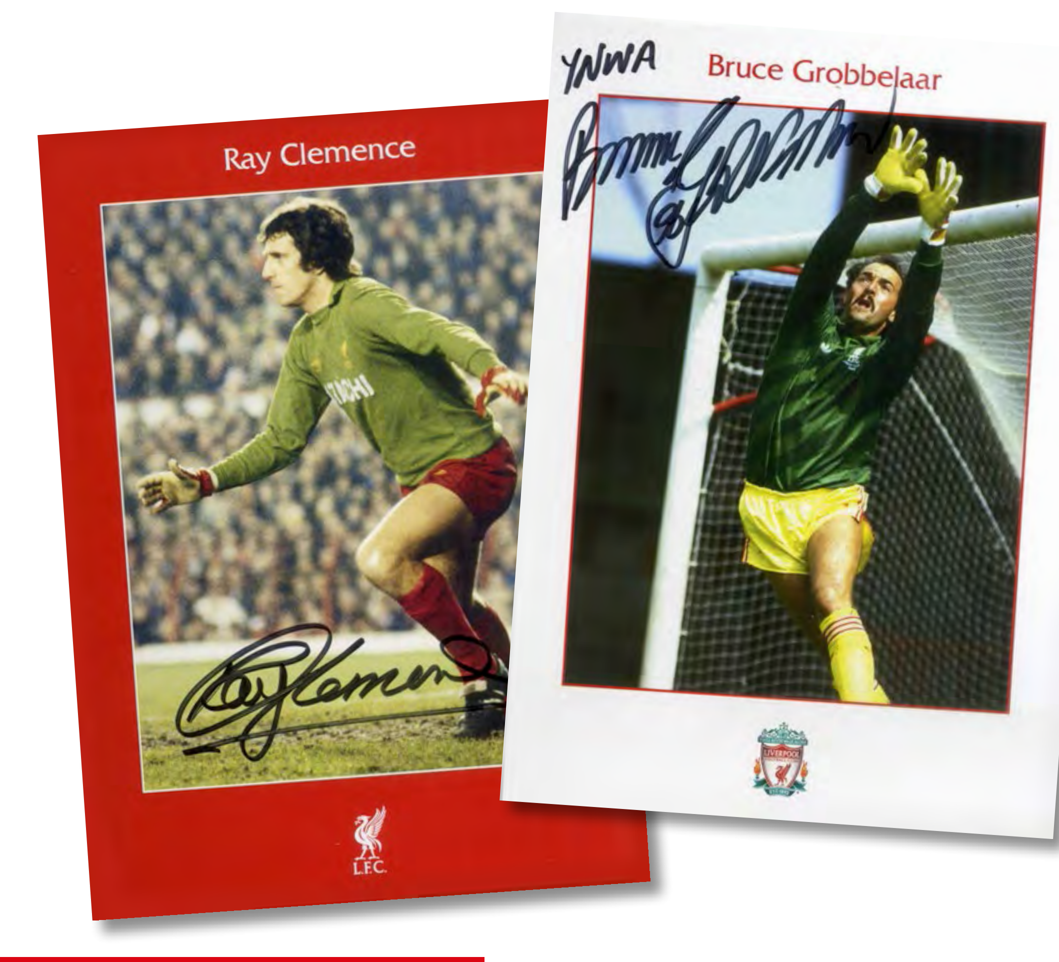






GLOVE

Two of Liverpool Football Club's greatest goalkeepers were reunited at Anfield last month at a Q&A dinner. We went along to revel in some Reds nostalgia with RAY CLEMENCE and BRUCE GROBBELAAR



Eleven league titles, four European Cups, four FA Cups, four League Cups, two UEFA Cups, 591 clean-sheets and nigh on 1,300 appearances.

Those are the bare statistics of the contribution Ray Clemence and Bruce Grobbelaar made to Liverpool Football Club during more than a quarter-of-a-century of distinguished service.

Last month the duo were reunited at Anfield for a special occasion hosted by LFC Events and well over a hundred supporters took advantage of the opportunity to see the goalkeeping greats in the same room.

Two days after the modern-day Reds had defeated Paris Saint-Germain at Anfield in a Champions League thriller, Clemence and Grobbelaar met fans of all ages to discuss the Reds' past, present and future.

It was fitting that the event was staged in the Sir Kenny Dalglish stand, a building named after a man who played alongside both and also managed Bruce – something the former Zimbabwean international would later admit was not always the easiest of tasks!

Before the evening kicked off in earnest, guests met their idols at a meet-and-greet session, enjoying welcome drinks as they queued to have a souvenir picture taken with the pair while getting items from yesteryear signed.

Souvenirs to which the pair were asked to add their signature ranged from John Keith's 1977 book *Clemence on Goalkeeping* to a piece of paper bearing Jerzy Dudek's autograph, thus





STORIES

ensuring the recipient went home as the happy holder of a fine piece of LFC memorabilia – the signatures of all three LFC European Cup-winning goalkeepers!

Venue for the main event was the Reds Lounge, scene of Jürgen Klopp's unveiling as manager three years ago.

We grabbed a quick word with the duo – whose Anfield careers overlapped by only a matter of weeks in 1981 – before they went on stage, and both were looking forward to an entertaining evening.

Clemence said: "I do quite a lot down of after-dinner speaking down south where I live now, but it's always great to come back here. I come up for most home games now and do some hospitality work for the club too which I really enjoy. It's just great to be with the Liverpool fans and I have been looking forward to doing this evening with Bruce.

"We didn't know each other particularly well when we were both at Liverpool because we probably only had six weeks or so here together.

"Bruce came in the middle of March in my last year here [1981] and was probably training for a month or two around the time of the European Cup final. We came back in pre-season and probably had another two or three weeks when Bruce then played in the first team and I was playing in the reserves before I left to join Tottenham.

"Obviously we've met each other loads of times since but in terms of physically being together inside the club it was probably only that six to eight weeks.

"It's always great coming to Anfield and with the Main Stand now, it's a fantastic venue. I was here for the PSG game and it was just like the old times. The atmosphere was as good as I've heard it here for many, many years."

Bruce added: "Have we rehearsed for this evening? Nah, we wing it but when we see each other we always have some banter and talk about games so it's brilliant. With Ray being here for so many years and winning so many trophies it made me so determined to try and beat his records, that's what drove me on.

"It's quite funny, my partner said to me you should thank Ray Clemence for leaving as otherwise she would never have met me! I've got to say that to him tonight!

"Being back at Anfield is fantastic. The stadium is beautiful, the new stand is a revelation. How they actually built the stand, the transformation in that close-season...it's brilliant how it all came together."

The main event started with the duo being welcomed to the stage by compere for the evening, LFCTV's Peter McDowall. Both men talked about their careers and what they are up to at the moment, with Ray reflecting on 47 years in the game as player, manager and coach and Bruce explaining that he had taken a year out to work on his book *Life in A Jungle*, which was published last month.



The menu, photo booklet and question cards from the night











THEY TACKLED A RANGE OF SUBJECTS FROM THE BEST PLAYERS THEY PLAYED WITH, MEMORABLE GAMES, SHANKLY, PAISLEY AND KOP HUMOUR

They also discussed the Liverpool team of today and received a special video message from the current guardian of the Reds' goal, Alisson Becker!

As the guys took a breather, they settled down to join guests for a delicious three-course meal, prepared by LFC chefs. For starters there was a tasty roasted-squash soup and for main a fabulous dish of braised-lamb shoulder with pressed potato, confit garlic, roasted carrots and shallots in a rosemary sauce.

Another special treat was served up in the form of singer/songwriter Jamie Webster, star of Shevchenko Park last May, who ran through a repertoire of LFC-related songs during dinner.

Ray smiled as he launched into *We Love You Liverpool* with the line: 'Clemence is our goalie, the best there is around'. There was audience participation too, as he played the now famous *Allez! Allez! Allez!*

After dessert of rhubarb sponge with vanilla mascarpone and orange, the former number ones returned to the stage to answer a selection of questions posed by members of the audience.

They tackled a range of subjects from the best players they had played with, how they came to sign for the club, their most memorable games, Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley, Kop humour and the perils of rooming with David James!

Asked if any members of the current team would get into the Liverpool sides of their eras, both men agreed on one man. "I would have loved to have played behind Virgil van Dijk," said Bruce, and Ray wholeheartedly agreed.

Clemence thoroughly enjoyed the question-and-answer session and told us:

"When I started doing the after-dinner speaking, I used to get up and talk for 40 minutes and hopefully people were entertained. But I am 100 per cent sure they would have walked out of



BRUCE GROBBELAAR

Age: 61
LFC games: 628
LFC clean-sheets: 267
LFC honours: League Championship 1981/82, 1982/83, 1983/84, 1985/86, 1987/88, 1989/90; FA Cup 1986, 1989, 1992; League Cup 1982, 1983, 1984; European Cup 1984



RAY CLEMENCE

Age: 70
LFC games: 665
LFC clean-sheets: 324
LFC honours: League Championship 1972/73, 1975/76, 1976/77, 1978/79, 1979/80; FA Cup 1974; League Cup 1981; European Cup 1977, 1978, 1981; UEFA Cup 1973, 1976

it and said, 'Oh, he never spoke about this or that' because I've been lucky enough to have 47 years in the game as a player and as a coach, most of it at the top end, so I've got lots of stories!

"It's good when the guests can ask us the questions they've always wanted to ask. Then hopefully not only are they entertained but they walk out of it thinking: well I wanted to know about that and now I do know the answers."

The evening ended with prizes being handed out, including a signed ball and a signed replica goalkeeping shirt from the Reds' last league title success in 1989/90.

There was still time for one final question which had guests clamouring for the video function on their phones.

Could Bruce still walk on his hands? The question was greeted with a wry smile by the man himself. Bruce, who turned 61 on 7 October, responded by removing his jacket, finding an aisle between tables and delighting guests by proving that age is just a number when it comes to his legendary athleticism.

For lovers of Liverpool FC these evenings really are special and supporters have a chance to attend two more in November.

On 2 November, Ian Rush, Jason McAteer and Roy Evans will be at The Davenport Hotel in Dublin. Then on 19 November, Liverpool manager and LFC Foundation ambassador Jürgen Klopp will be conducting a Q&A as part of a gala dinner staged at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral.





For more information on future LFC events visit
liverpoolfc.com/lfcevents

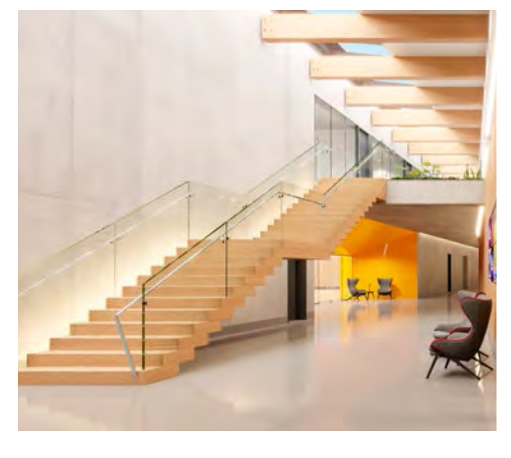

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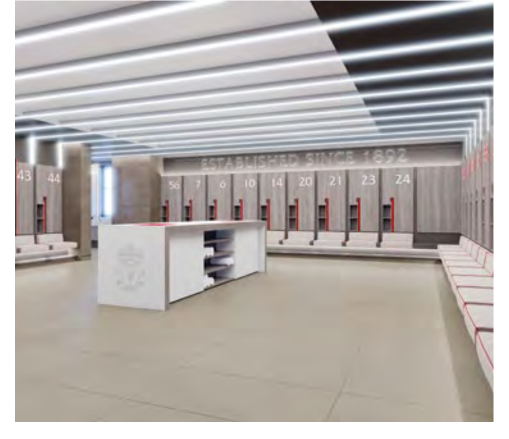


MIND YER HEAD MO!

Bobby Firmino doesn't just celebrate his goals in style, he took to the air again when Mo Salah netted in the 5-2 Champions League semi-final win agaisnt AS Roma. "When my team-mates score a goal I always take the opportunity to celebrate. It feels great to celebrate a goal." Good to see, even if he almost gave Mo a haircut at the same time!

2020







vision

Welcome to a new chapter in **Liverpool FC's** story as work begins on an elite new training complex

Last month Liverpool FC held a special 'breaking ground' ceremony at the Academy in Kirkby to mark the beginning of work on its new training campus.

Reds boss Jürgen Klopp, Academy director Alex Inglethorpe and LFC's chief-operating officer Andy Hughes joined club staff, the leader and chief-executive of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council and representatives from building contractors McLaughlin & Harvey to celebrate the start of a new chapter for the club.

The state-of-the-art redevelopment of the existing Academy site will see the first team and youth-football operations come together at a combined training facility for the first time in Liverpool's history.

Hughes called it "another significant milestone in the club's history. This development will not only provide first-class amenities for our players and staff – in which a clear pathway through to the first team will be created – but it will vastly improve sports facilities for the community of Kirkby."

The new 9,200sqm training complex will provide an elite performance centre for the first team and a state-of-the-art training area for the club's development squads, alongside new pitches, two gyms, a full-size sports hall, pool, hydrotherapy complex and specialist sports rehabilitation suites. There will also be dedicated TV studios, press-conference facilities and office accommodation.

The project includes the redevelopment of Knowsley Council's Eddie McArdle community playing fields which neighbour the site. Improvements include upgraded football pitches, new changing-rooms and facilities, a new pedestrian and cycle pathway, and improved security.

Cllr Graham Morgan of Knowsley Council added: "We are pleased to be working in partnership with LFC with the aim of creating a sporting hub that will enable the development of more grassroots football and hopefully inspire the next generation of players. This is a project we are very proud to be involved in."

The entire scheme is expected to be completed in spring 2020, with the first team moving across from Melwood during the close-season.



Getting to Anfield

Public transport: the quick and convenient way to the match

Get the bus

On matchday the 917 express bus runs direct from Liverpool city centre to Anfield every 10 minutes. There is a discounted ticket price of £4, with fans receiving a discount on soft drinks at LFC kiosks within the stadium on presentation of their return-ticket.

The Soccerbus will be operating three hours prior to kick-off and up to 90 minutes after the final whistle. A new family ticket (two adults + two children) is available for £7 and a group ticket (four adults) for £10. Soccerbus tickets can now be bought at any rail station by asking for a 'plus Anfield/Goodison' ticket.

Other bus services include the 26 and 27 from LiverpoolONE station and 17 from Queen Square. The 68/168, which operates between Bootle and Aigburth, and the 14 and 19 (from Queen Square) stop a short walk from the ground.

The 501 football service operates direct to Lime Street from Walton Lane for up to two hours after the final whistle. Adult £2, children £1.

The 502 also runs two journeys from Anfield after each home game to Lime Street.



Trains and automobiles

Lime Street is two miles from Anfield and taxi fares usually cost £7-9, or buses go from nearby Queen Square. Merseyrail runs from town to Sandhills station from where matchday passengers can use the Soccerbus.

Back of the cab

Taxi pick-up points are available outside of the stadium and on major routes. Taxi One operates a taxi-bus service from St Johns Lane, Liverpool city centre, direct to Anfield. A frequent service operates from three hours prior to kick off. Taxi One return-service operates from the corner of Anfield Road/Sleepers Hill opposite the Isla Gladstone conservatory back to the city-centre.

On your bike!

The free LFC Cycle Hub will be located on Anfield Road for the 2018/19 season, allowing fans who cycle to the game to park their bikes safely and securely with an attendant.

Walk on

Walking routes are signposted from Lime Street, Sandhills and Kirkdale stations to assist fans who travel to the game using local rail services.

Get there early!

Avoid the crowds and get to Anfield early to enjoy the Fan Zones, located in Paisley Square and Anfield Road and open four hours before kick-off – ideal for meeting before the game to soak up the atmosphere.

For more advice please visit www.liverpoolfc.com/gettingtoanfield

ANFIELD MATCHDAY TRANSPORT PLAN 2018/19 SEASON





TE AMO

After being mobbed by his team-mates for his winning goal against Tottenham, Bobby made this gesture towards the Wembley crowd. Was it a heart to say 'te amo' (I love you) to his family? Or something a little more subtle? What we do know is it won't be the last time Firmino celebrates a Reds goal in his own unique style!

A KICKABOUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

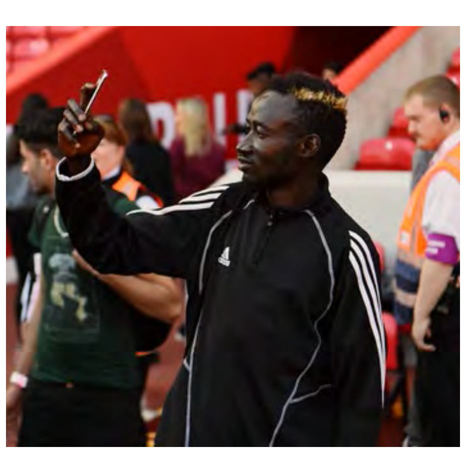
Anfield dream comes true for refugees thanks to LFC Foundation while Reds and Blues unite against knife-crime and stars inspire local schoolkids

LFC Foundation has welcomed more than 120 young Liverpool-based refugees to Anfield for a special opportunity to play on the pitch. It's part of a plan to reach out and encourage them to attend its free Premier League Kicks sessions in the city.

They were joined by 30 local youngsters and the teams were mixed to help break down barriers. Western Union, LFC's official money-transfer partner, supported the day along with the City Council and Liverpool FA.

Jacob Vierra, 22 and from Kenya, has lived here for four years. He said: "I'm a fan of Liverpool FC so this is an amazing experience for me and I hope to keep playing in the future."

Project-lead Tony Cosgrove stressed that football was "invaluable when helping kids to socialise and integrate. We hope to see some of the young people from today coming along to our Kicks sessions where they can play football in a fun, inclusive environment."





Elsewhere LFC Foundation and Everton in the Community hosted a trophy presentation for their #NoMoreKnives football tournament, with Reds legend Robbie Fowler in attendance. Once again it was organised through Premier League Kicks with Shrewsbury House Youth Club, one of LFC Foundation's Kicks delivery-centres, taking first place.

Robbie said: "Sadly we're hearing about knife-crime incidents all too often, so it's extremely important that we educate young people about the implications of carrying

knives, and help to make our city a safer place."

Over at Anfield meanwhile five fist-team players joined local pupils at a careers event. Simon Mignolet, Joel Matip, Divock Origi, Nathaniel Clyne and Alberto Moreno met youngsters from three Anfield high schools – Alsop High, Academy of Saint Francis of Assisi and Notre Dame Catholic College – at the speed-networking session run by Red Neighbours. LFC staff from various departments were also on hand to offer their advice.

These events are designed to allow pupils to learn about the education and career-paths of club employees, discover the many different opportunities available within football, and receive guidance on how to be successful in their chosen occupation.







TACKLING MENTAL HEALTH

Don't miss a new documentary on LFCTV entitled *Jason McAteer: Through The Storm*. In it the former Reds and Republic of Ireland midfielder opens up about his battle with depression and examines the wider issue of mental health in football.

"When you break your leg, you have a cast put on and people recognise it, show sympathy and you know it'll be a time-process before it gets better," says Jason. "But when you have a mental-health problem the signs aren't as clear.

"I know this because I've lived through depression. I know how destructive it can be. It's time to talk more openly about the subject and get the message out there that it's okay not to be okay."

Coinciding with World Mental Health Day, the show is free-to-view throughout Wednesday 10 October via LFCTV GO and the club's official YouTube channel, airing on LFCTV in the evening.

Following a Spirit Of Shankly invite the club is also working with the Liverpool Mental Health Consortium, with recent statistics indicating that as many as one in four people in the UK will experience a mental-health problem each year.

Across the country around 6,000 people die by suicide annually, and recently Reds fan Michael Woodburn was found dead in Norway. His loss has been keenly felt and the fundraising efforts to support his family are testament both to Michael's popularity and the solidarity of Liverpool supporters. The same was true of Neil 'Yozza' Hughes, another Anfield regular, who died in 2016. His story is told by his dad in the Jason McAteer documentary.

WHAT'S IN




CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BADGE
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YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CHARM KEYRING
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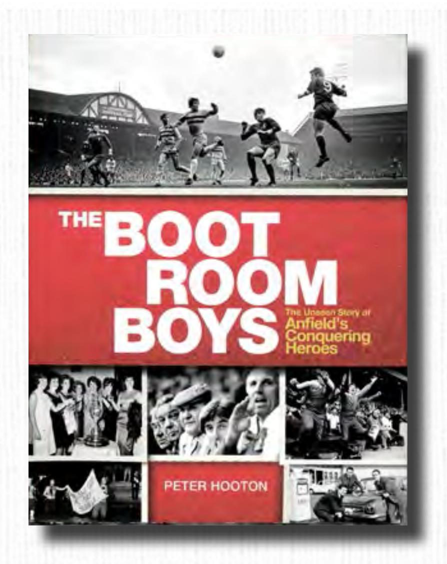
ALLEZ ALLEZ ALLEZ WATER BOTTLE
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ANFIELD SHELFIES

Our verdict on the pick of the latest Liverpool FC-related books



THE BOOT ROOM BOYS: THE UNSEEN STORY OF ANFIELD'S CONQUERING HEROES (hardback £20 Virgin Books)

If the size of the turnout at its launch is an indication of this new hardback's appeal, it should shift a few copies. Among the full house upstairs at Waterstones Liverpool there were even a few Evertonians – such is the enduring fascination the Boot Room dynasty begun by Bill Shankly back in 1959.

Naturally Shanks is prominent throughout the book along with Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan, Ronnie Moran, Reuben Bennett, Tom Saunders and – there in person at the launch – Roy Evans, plus King Kenny of course. All of them lived by a code of simplicity and loyalty that brought phenomenal success for the team on the pitch.

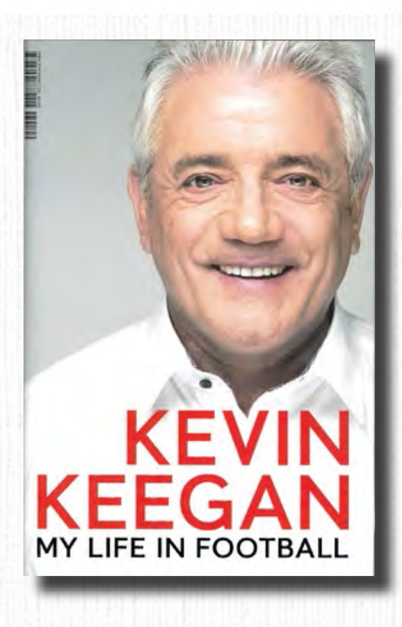
But it's the Liverpool fans down the ages, explained author Peter Hooton to the evening's compere and fellow writer Simon Hughes, who steal the show, photo-bombing Anfield, its heroes and legends, in image after evocative image, many of which have never been published before.

Peter adds a personal touch to the narrative, having followed the Reds all his life and met Shankly in person in 1981 just before the great man died. It's as much a tale about the city that flourished around the football club as LFC's most exulted era.

If you weren't there on the launch-night at Waterstones, you won't have heard what Shankly said to Roger Hunt when the England striker returned to Melwood for pre-season after the 1966 World Cup; who took home the first team's socks to be washed by his wife every weekend; why Ian Rush was branded a "dud" in 1981 by a club director to Geoff Twentyman, the unsung Boot Room hero who'd scouted him; which Nineties superstar often earned the wrath of Ronnie Moran for turning up late for training – "Fog in the [Mersey] tunnel again, was there?"; or how Alex Ferguson reacted when Roy Evans resigned as joint-manager.

Console yourself with a copy of this excellent book – you won't be disappointed.



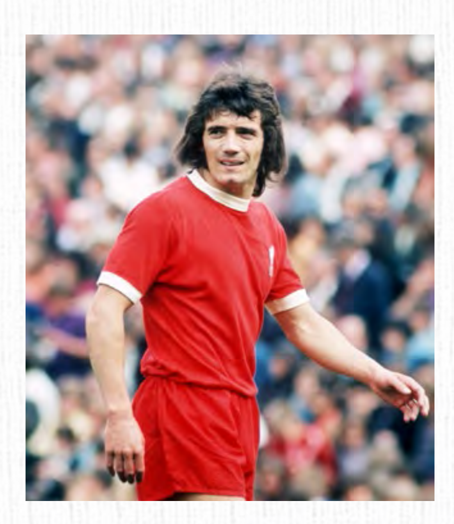


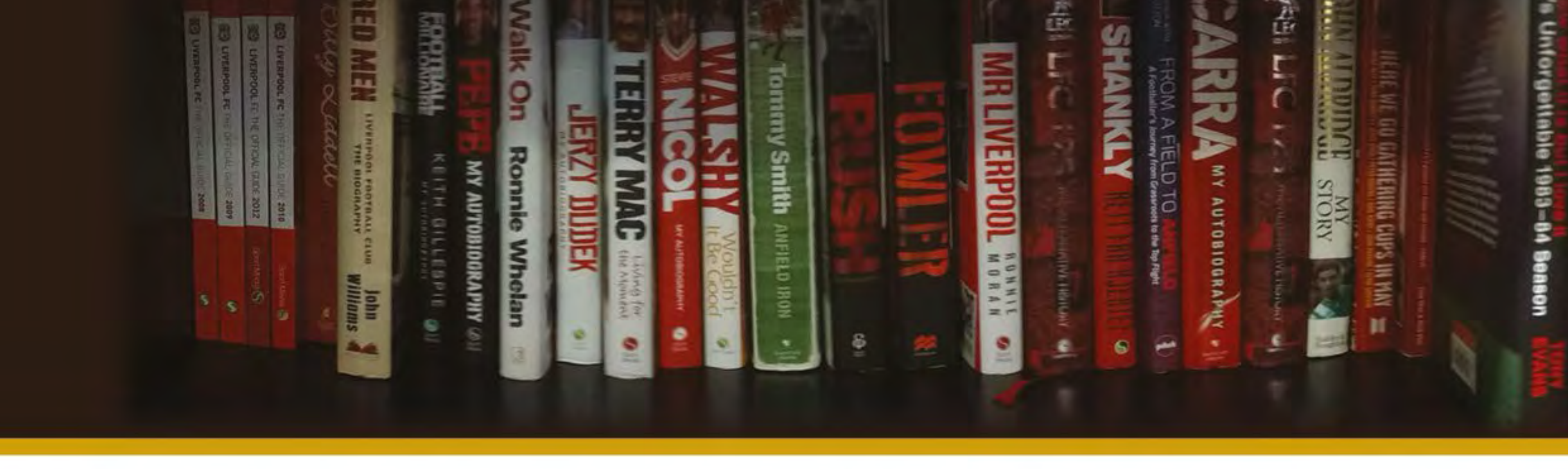
KEVIN KEEGAN: MY LIFE IN FOOTBALL (hardback £20 Pan MacMillan)

King Kev wrote his first autobiography in 1978 not long after he'd left Liverpool for Hamburg and at the height of his powers as a player. Another one followed in 1997 by which time he'd managed Newcastle United to the brink of the Premier League title then resigned within the year.

This is the third instalment, so to speak, with Keegan now aged 67 and a spell as England boss followed by a fall-out with Mike Ashley back on Tyneside to reflect upon with co-author Daniel Taylor.

So he's been around the block in publishing terms, and that's not counting all the unofficial biographies and soccer annuals back in the day.



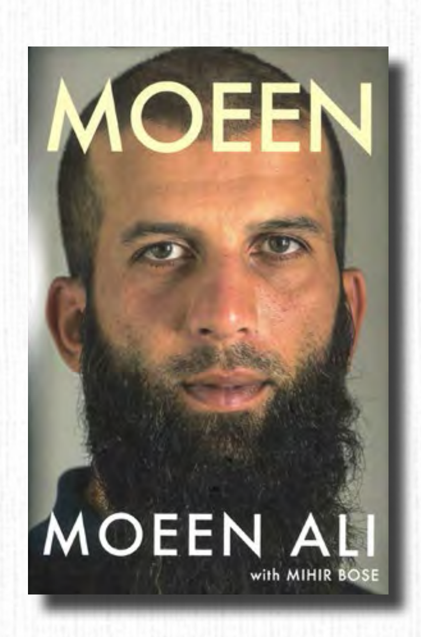


It's the Liverpool bits that matter for us, of course, and there's good stuff in here. "I will never forget the first time I played in front of the Liverpool fans [Saturday 14 August 1971 v Nottingham Forest] and the way they used to funnel all their colossal passion into ninety minutes on a Saturday afternoon," he writes.

"It used to make my eyes water when the Kop started singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*. Even now, it can still make me emotional to hear that famous anthem. I've actually cried during games listening to it reverberate through the stands."

Anfield is where it all began – and where it all ended, too, for Keegan the player as he bore down on goal in Newcastle colours during an FA Cup third-round tie in January 1984. "Suddenly there was a flash of red at my shoulder and Mark Lawrenson had appeared beside me. And then, in a split-second, the Liverpool defender had taken the ball off my foot...

"Nothing like that had happened to me before and that was the precise moment, with the game still going on, that the truth hit me like a mallet... My mind was made up: it was my last season as a professional footballer."



MOEEN (hardback £20 Allen & Unwin)

You may be wondering why we've included Moeen Ali's book in this LFC literary round-up, but for cricket-loving Reds it will only take a few pages of the England ace's memoir for it to become clear.



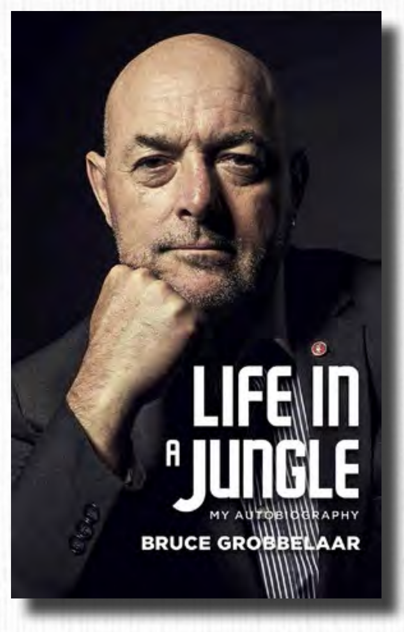
Mo (now there's a name we like) spends a lot of his time thinking about Liverpool Football Club and following their fortunes. When he was invited on an Anfield ground tour last year he admitted to barely sleeping the night before due to his excitement.

Moeen has done a lot for the British Asian sporting community and this entertaining read offers an insight into his background as well as the England cricket team environment and his own highs and lows of the past few years.

An honorary ambassador for the Reds' official supporters club in Pakistan, his love for Liverpool shines through. He pounces on every opportunity to give the club a mention in much the same way as he seizes on wayward bowling out in the middle. Take his analysis of team-mate Ben Stokes' fielding abilities: "He anticipates slip catches in the same way Mo Salah anticipates a defence-splitting pass before racing forward to score." He also reveals that when he takes on Stokes at FIFA on the PlayStation, the Durham man plays as Real Madrid while he, of course, is Liverpool.

"I am besotted with Liverpool and nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to run out at Wembley wearing the number nine jersey. I grew up wanting to be another Robbie Fowler. Now I fancy myself as Luis Suarez or Mohamed Salah. But then which Reds fans has not?"

A Birmingham boy, his love of Liverpool came from his brother Kadeer, himself a successful county cricketer, and this book reveals him to be a real all-rounder.



LIFE IN A JUNGLE: BRUCE GROBBELAAR, MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY (hardback £20 deCoubertin Books)

Bruce Grobbelaar has lived a charmed life, both on and off the pitch.

From dodging bullets in the Bush War as a member of the Rhodesian Army to keeping goal for Liverpool FC for 13 years despite numerous high-profile mistakes to unproven allegations of match-fixing that – by his own admission – his reputation has never truly recovered from, it's scarcely believable that one person could have lived such a life.

Yet Grobbelaar – nicknamed 'the Jungleman' in Africa and dubbed the 'clown prince and 'elastic eccentric' during an Anfield career in which he became LFC's most decorated goalkeeper – is a survivor.

His unique tale has been told before but not since those infamous 1990s court cases. So *Life In A Jungle* brings Grobbelaar's story up to date in a matter-of-fact style autobiography, penned by ghostwriter Ragnhild Lund Asnes and laced with controversy and opinion, not all of which you'll necessarily agree with.

The more you read, the crazier is seems that Bob Paisley went to such great lengths to sign the relatively-untried Grobbelaar from Vancouver Whitecaps as a long-term replacement for Ray Clemence, as he couldn't even pronounce his name!

"As I walked into the room Paisley says, 'Grobble-de-jack, would you like to play for →

ANFIELD SHELFIES



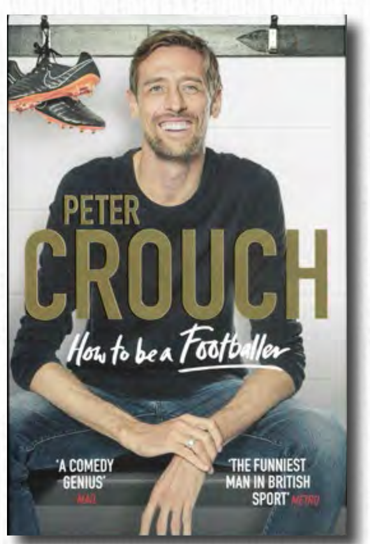


Liverpool?' 'Yes, Mr Paisley, I'd love to play for Liverpool'. 'That will do for me'. And with that they turned around and walked out the door. I didn't see them again for another six weeks – a months-long battle between Liverpool and the Home Office had ensued for them to get me a work-permit. Luckily, Bob Paisley got his way."

There are several laugh-out-loud stories from Brucie's Liverpool days: from hiding in the woods in camouflage to catch a kid who'd been nicking the washing off his line (a different kind of clean-sheet), to accidentally throwing a bucket full of pee through the emergency door of the Reds team coach onto the windscreen of a passing car that subsequently crashed into a lamp-post. But it's the way Grobbelaar has survived so many situations that leaves the enduring impression.







PETER CROUCH: HOW TO BE A FOOTBALLER (hardback £20 Ebury Press)

If you want to read a traditional football autobiography, a chronological trawl through the early years of a player's life before a game-by-game recall of his career, this is definitely not it.

Peter Crouch – How to be a Footballer is a witty insight into the mad world of modern football from the viewpoint of our former forward, whether it's him as the butt of the joke or not! Light-hearted, conversational and a genuinely funny read, you'd be forgiven for thinking Crouchie's doppleganger and comedy writer Stephen Merchant was a contributor.

Want a step-by-step guide to the ideal goal celebration? The rules of where you can - and can't - sit on the team bus? Why he hasn't joined in with most other footballers and got a tattoo? There's all this and more with tales from making the grade at QPR to life today at Stoke City.

Throughout there are plenty of humorous stories from his three-year spell with the Reds from 2005 to 2008. Read about the strike-partner who would always leave pots of hair gel scattered around Melwood in case he needed a top-up; which LFC team-mate was the best company on a night-out; the lucky pants behind a Reds scoring streak; the story behind getting the nickname 'Ooch' from Craig Bellamy; and the goal Liverpool fans still talk to him about to this day.

There's a rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone* in front of a 40,000 crowd with a difference, the lengths he went to secure his move to LFC and, revealed for the first time, that he was the Secret Santa behind two cheeky gifts for then manager Rafa Benitez.

Playing with Steven Gerrard was far from the last chapter of his continuing football career, but it's the former Anfield skipper to whom Peter dedicates the final one in his book. From recalling the first time they crossed paths in a Liverpool v Spurs youth game, Gerrard's winning mentality shines through in our ex-no15's respect for him.





We've got a copy of each book to give away. For a chance of winning, answer the question and send your entry to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com with BOOKS COMPO in the title bar. Closing date: Friday 2 November 2018.
What shirt number did Kevin Keegan wear for Liverpool? (a) seven (b) eight (c) nine.



What's On

OCT/NOV

RED STAR AT NIGHT

Liverpool's UEFA Champions League campaign resumes when they entertain Serbian Super Liga champions Red Star Belgrade at Anfield on Wednesday 24 October.

The clubs have met twice before, with Red Star beating Bill Shankly's Liverpool 2-1 in both legs of a European Cup second-round tie in the autumn of 1973. That encounter is widely-accepted as changing the Reds' approach in Europe in the years ahead.

Liverpool will need to keep forward El Fardou Ben Nobouhane quiet – the Comorian front-runner bagged six goals in qualifying for the group-stage and made two others.

Up next is Cardiff City's first visit to Anfield for five years (Saturday 27 October) with ex-Reds defender Lee Peltier among Neil Warnock's Bluebirds squad.

Then Liverpool travel to Arsenal on Saturday 3 November. Just under a year ago it finished 3-3 in one of the Premier League's games of the season and, as it stands, there have now been 27 goals scored in the past five top-flight meetings between the teams – 17 for the Reds, ten for Arsenal – at an average of 5.4 per game.



OCT/NOV

What's On

RUGBY LEAGUE AT ANFIELD



Early November sees international rugby league return to Anfield. After staging the 2016 Four Nations final between Australia and New Zealand, the stadium will stage the Baskerville Shield fixture between England and New Zealand on Sunday 4 November.

The second of a three-Test international series, this game will provide an opportunity for fans to see the New Zealand haka up close and personal.

Tickets start at £25 for adults with junior and concessions tickets available for £12.50.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

44 years since Phil Neal signed for the Reds on 9 October 1974.
53 years since Liverpool defeated Juventus 2-0 in a European Cup Winners Cup first-round second leg at Anfield thanks to first-half goals from Chris Lawler and Geoff Strong on 13 October 1965.
31 years since Ray Houghton joined the club on 19 October 1987.
3 years since the Reds drew 1-1 with Rubin Kazan at Anfield in Jürgen Klopp's first home match as LFC manager on 22 October 2015.
126 years since Matt McQueen and his brother Hugh made their debuts in LFC's first FA Cup tie at Anfield on 29 October 1892.
35 years since forward Ian Rush scored five goals against Luton Town on 29 October 1983.

And 96 years since Harry Chambers scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 derby win over Everton at Anfield on Saturday 7 October 1922.

The name of Harry Chambers may not spring to mind immediately when thinking of great Liverpool FC goalscorers. But a look down the list of leading Reds marksmen sees the 1920s centre-forward in the top ten. Indeed only eight men have netted more than Harry's tally of 151 which came from 339 appearances between 1919 and 1928.





Chambers had been the last signing made by legendary Liverpool boss Tom Watson before he passed away in May 1915. Although somewhat bow-legged and pigeon-toed (!) the smiling northerner clearly impressed Watson and would no doubt have been even higher up the club's goalscoring rankings but for league football being suspended due to the outbreak of the First World War.

Chambers had a lethal left foot and a brilliant football brain and was a key member of the Liverpool team that won the First Division in successive seasons in 1922 and 1923, scoring 41 goals in 71 matches. Indeed he was the club's top-scorer for four successive seasons from 1919/20 to 22/23.

Harry scored five hat-tricks for Liverpool with his second coming against Everton at Anfield in a game which saw the Reds win 5-1 despite trailing 1-0 at half-time. In some ways he scored two hat-tricks that afternoon as the game also counted as a Lancashire Senior Cup fixture!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bruce Grobbelaar
61 on 6 October

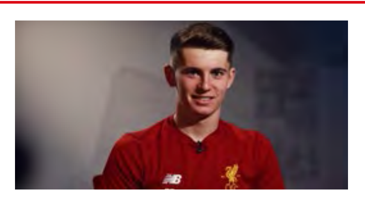
Trent Alexander-Arnold
20 on 7 October

Sami Hyypia
45 on 7 October

Xherdan Shaqiri
27 on 10 October

Ronny Rosenthal
55 on 11 October

Niamh Fahey
31 on 13 October



Ben Woodburn
19 on 15 October

Chris Lawler
75 on 20 October

Ian Rush
57 on 20 October

Willie Stevenson
79 on 26 October





ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS



AT ANFIELD

Friday 7th December
Saturday 8th December
Friday 14th December
Saturday 15th December
Thursday 20th December



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Fixtures & Results

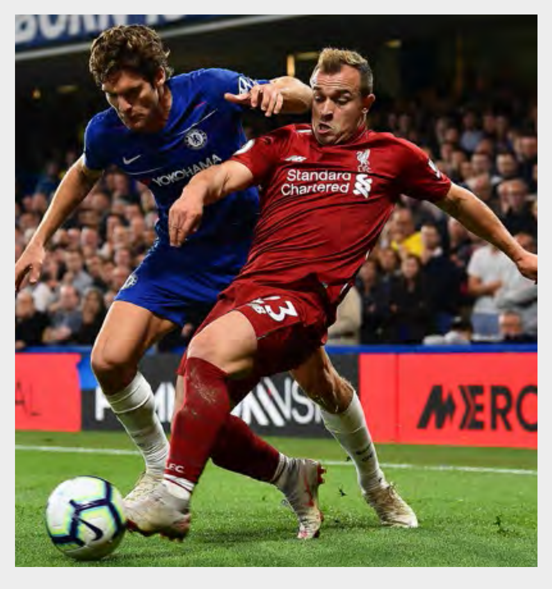
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		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
AUGUST				
12	West Ham United (H)	4-0	sky	Mane 2, Salah, Sturridge
20	Crystal Palace (A)	2-0	sky	Milner (pen), Mane
25	Brighton and Hove Albion (H)	1-0	BT	Salah
SEPTEMBER				
1	Leicester City (A)	2-1	sky	Mane, Firmino
15	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	2-1	sky	Wijnaldum, Firmino
18	Paris St-Germain (UCL, H)	3-2	BT	Sturridge, Milner (pen), Firmino
22	Southampton (H)	3-0		Hoedt (og), Matip, Salah
26	Chelsea (CC3, H)	1-2	sky	Sturridge
29	Chelsea (A)	1-1	BT	Sturridge
OCTOBER				
3	Napoli (UCL, A)	8pm	BT	
7	Manchester City (H)	4.30pm	sky	
20	Huddersfield Town (A)	5.30pm	BT	
24	Red Star Belgrade (UCL, H)	8pm	BT	
27	Cardiff City (H)	3pm		
NOVEMBER				
3	Arsenal (A)	5.30pm	BT	
6	Red Star Belgrade (UCL, A)	5.55pm	BT	
11	Fulham (H)	12pm	BT	
24	Watford (A)	3pm		
28	Paris St-Germain (UCL, A)	8pm	BT	
DECEMBER				
1	Everton (H)	3pm		
4	Burnley (A)	7.45pm		
8	Bournemouth (A)	3pm		
11	Napoli (UCL, H)	8pm	BT	
15	Manchester United (H)	3pm		
22	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)	3pm		
26	Newcastle United (H)	3pm		
29	Arsenal (H)	3pm		
JANUARY				
1	Manchester City (A)	3pm		
5	FA Cup 3			
12	Brighton and Hove Albion (A)	3pm		
19	Crystal Palace (H)	3pm		
26	FA Cup 4			
30	Leicester City (H)	8pm		
FEBRUARY				
2	West Ham United (A)	3pm		
9	Bournemouth (H)	3pm		
12/13	UCL Round of 16 1			
16	FA Cup 5			
19/20	UCL Round of 16 1			
23	Manchester United (A)	3pm		
27	Watford (H)	8pm		
MARCH				
2	Everton (A)	3pm		
5/6	UCL Round of 16 2			
9	Burnley (H)	3pm		
12/13	UCL Round of 16 2			
16	Fulham (A)/FA Cup 6			
30	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	3pm		
APRIL				
6	Southampton (A)/FA Cup s-f	3pm		
9/10	UCL q-f 1			
13	Chelsea (H)	3pm		
16/17	UCL q-f 2			
20	Cardiff City (A)	3pm		
27	Huddersfield Town (H)	3pm		
30/1	UCL s-f 1			
MAY				
4	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		
7/8	UCL s-f 2			
12	Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)	3pm		
18	FA Cup final			
JUNE				
1	UCL final			











EYECAN WATCH THE MATCH

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NEIL MELLOR

Everyone can shine in this awesome squad as the 18/19 season opens up



James Milner has been outstanding for Liverpool. In fact I'd go as far as to say he's as important to Jürgen Klopp's team as the front-three of Mo Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino are.

Players like Milner are so important to a team functioning together collectively. When people see the name 'Milner' on the team-sheet they don't think 'match-winner,' but the other players will appreciate seeing his name in the starting XI more than most supporters realise.

Milner is a team-player who puts the team before himself in an era when there doesn't seem to be too many of those players about. He is a standout team performer and his relationship with Andy Robertson is a good example of how important he is.

Robertson has flourished going forward because he knows Milner will fill in for him. He has a footballing brain, intelligence and the game awareness to know where he needs to be on the pitch. He also set a new Champions League record for the most assists last season because he has quality in his delivery when fewer players seem to be able to cross a ball.

When he came in under Brendan Rodgers wanting to be a central midfielder, people said he couldn't play there but he proved he could – and then he spent his first full season under Klopp at left-back and still performed really well. Now he's back in the centre of midfield and is key to the way Liverpool want to play.

Gini Wijnaldum has also made a brilliant start to the season. I must admit that, with Naby Keita and Fabinho arriving, I was thinking: where does Gini fit into things this season? So he deserves credit for fighting for the shirt and playing so well that he can't be dropped. He perhaps doesn't create enough going forward having arrived from Newcastle as a more attacking midfield player, but he's another with game-intelligence. Liverpool play better when he is involved.

The other midfield position has, so far, been rotated between Jordan Henderson and Keita, but the season is so long that there will be times when both of them are starters in a settled midfield. We saw that last season with Milner, Henderson and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain as the preferred midfield-three when the season had started with both Wijnaldum and Emre Can in there.

Keita will show his quality and importance as time goes on and I'm someone who has always appreciated Henderson and the difficult job he had of taking over the captain's armband from Steven Gerrard.

That was never going to be easy and he'll never score as often as Stevie did, but Henderson is never lacking in effort and commitment to this team and he epitomises Liverpool's togetherness. Klopp has a connection with the fans and the players all understand what is expected from them to work together as a team.

Getting into Klopp's team has been difficult for Fabinho so far but he needs to be patient and look at what happened to Robertson last season. His time came and he took his opportunity – something Fabinho must also do as he continues to adapt to the league and the size of Liverpool Football Club. If he keeps the right mentality there will be good times ahead for him.

The fact that Klopp also has Oxlade-Chamberlain and Adam Lallana still to come back in is indicative of the strength in depth Liverpool now have in midfield with young Curtis Jones also trying to break into the team.

We saw in the 1-1 draw against Chelsea how beneficial it is to have quality on the bench as Keita, Xherdan Shaqiri and Daniel Sturridge all came on and had an impact on that game to earn a late point whereas in previous years Liverpool might well have lost that game at Stamford Bridge.

Having players you can bring on to change a game, or see a result out, is a huge positive for Klopp. We saw Firmino come on to score an important winner against PSG in the Champions League at Anfield too. If that continues we'll be in for a successful season.

The other great thing is that Liverpool remain an enjoyable team to watch. I loved watching the Reds last season and I'm enjoying watching them again now because not only is the football good to watch, we're also seeing progression and that bodes well.

• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33





new balance

HORIZON PACK





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